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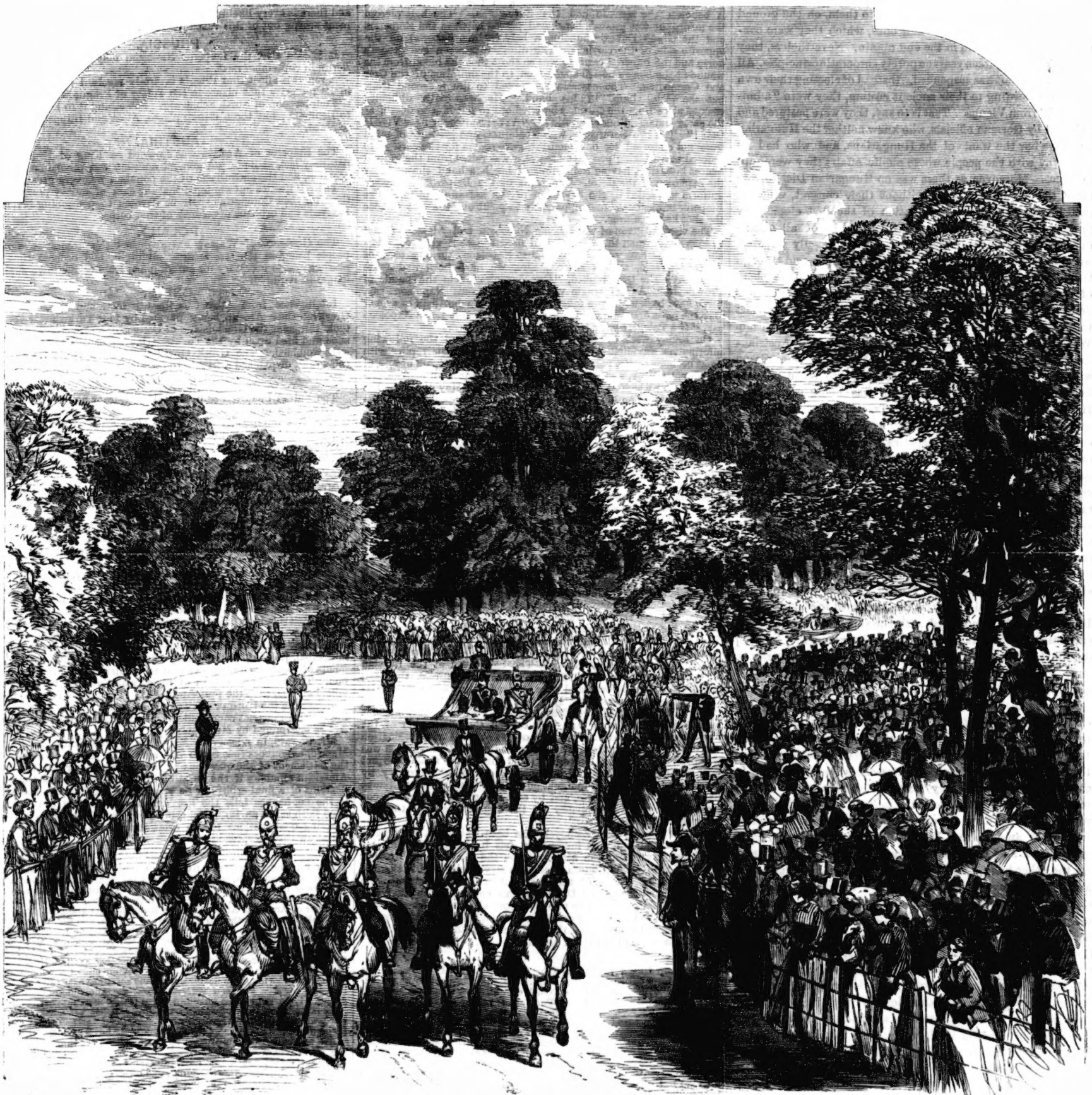
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THE CORONATION OF THE KING OF HUNGARY.

THE coronation of the Emperor of Austria as King of Hungary is an event of considerable importance, not only to Austria, but to all Europe. It is a sign of the re-establishment of confidence between the house of Hapsburg and the most important of the various dominions under its rule; and there is no reason why this confidence should not be so complete on both sides that the war to which such a result would be attributable would have to be looked upon not as a mis-

fortune, but as a source of great advantage to the Austrian Empire. Count von Bismarck was thought to have said a very insulting and unjustifiable thing when, some two years ago, he told the Austrian Minister at the Court of Berlin that Austria's true centre of gravity was not at Vienna but at Pesth; but if, as there is every reason to believe, the reconciliation between Hungary and the Austrian Government should be lasting, the words of the Prussian statesman would no doubt be proved by events to be true.

To be sure, Count von Bismarck will have helped very materially to bring about the realisation of his own prophecy. If Austria had not been turned out of the German Confederation by force of arms, her centre of gravity might have remained at Vienna even after a restoration of the old union with Hungary. As it is, there is every likelihood of Pesth becoming the most important political city in the empire. The Germans of Austria, numbering altogether about eight millions, will probably look more and more to



Prussia when they find that the Austrian empire is no longer to be governed through a German or Germanised administration; while the Hungarians will become more and more influential under a constitutional system which will give them full scope for the exercise of their well-known political talents.

The good that Europe and European civilisation may derive from the strengthening of Austria, through the recognition of Hungary's constitutional rights, is obvious to anyone who considers the menacing attitude which has lately been adopted by Russia both towards Austria and towards Turkey. The real meaning of the Slavonian congress, just held at Moscow, and of the invitations sent to the Slavonians of Bohemia and Hungary to attend it, is that Russia wishes to demonstrate the power she possesses through her Slavonianism, true or supposed, to influence a very large number of Austrian subjects. In Turkey Russia pursues her designs openly enough. In Austria she cannot put pressure on the Government of the Emperor, as, from time to time, she does in Turkey on that of the Sultan; but she can create disaffection by fostering hopes on the part of a powerful race—or members of a race—which places among its hereditary enemies the Magyars and the Germans, whom it appears to hate with the hate that inferiors too often feel for their natural superiors.

The Hungarian question, and the happy manner in which it has at last been solved, may also be considered from what many will call a sentimental point of view. There is now one "oppressed nationality" less in Europe than there was before. The coronation of the Austrian Emperor as King of Hungary is a token of the cessation of arbitrary rule in that country. For nearly twenty years the Hungarians had been governed under a pure despotism. This was, in a certain measure, their own fault, it may be said; and indeed it was, to a certain extent, their own choice. They chose, that is to say, to reject some small liberties that were offered to them, on the ground that they were entitled to greater ones, which they were convinced that they would in the end obtain. Nevertheless, they were ruled for eighteen years on purely autocratic principles. All local government was suspended. Instead of electing their own officials, according to their ancient custom, they were "administered" from Vienna. That is to say, they were pestered and irritated by German officials, who knew neither the Hungarian language nor the wants of the Hungarians, and who had no sympathy with the people whose public affairs they were sent to direct. Moreover, as there was no Hungarian Diet to vote taxes, the people were taxed without their consent, which, it need hardly be said, was a violation of the first elementary principle of the Hungarian Constitution, as of all constitutional government. The taxes, being illegally imposed, were not paid until they were levied by force and through the agency of the troops. This looked very like the robbery of the people by the State, and the feeling between rulers and ruled became more and more bitter, until at last there appeared to be no possibility of a reconciliation. When the Italian war broke out, and the Austrians lost the battles of Magenta and Solferino, one reason why the Austrian Emperor was so ready to make peace is known to have been that a rising was being prepared in Hungary. After the signing of the Treaty of Zurich overtures were made to the Hungarians, a Hungarian Diet was convoked, and Hungarian deputies were once more invited, on what was considered favourable terms, to enter the Reichsrath. But Hungary would not admit that Vienna could, on any conditions, be made the centre of its Government. The Diet was dissolved, the arbitrary bureaucratic system was carried on as before, and, though from time to time fresh attempts at reconciliation were entered upon, no serious endeavour to gain the goodwill of the Hungarians, by recognising their just claims, was made until after Austria's signal defeat in the war with Prussia.

It may now be said that the dark interval in the history of Hungary which commenced with the suppression of the insurrection of 1848 has been closed. The conquered, by their dignified but determined persistence in claiming their rights, have vanquished their conquerors. By sticking to their plainly-stated purpose, by abstaining from vain appeals to force—which, however, were constantly advocated by the extreme party—by watching their opportunity, and, finally, by accepting a little—practically very little indeed—less than they had always bargained for, the Hungarians have replaced themselves, as nearly as circumstances would allow, in the position which they occupied before their insurrection. The *status quo ante bellum* having thus been regained, it is easy to calculate what the losses caused by the war amount to. Eighteen years' privation of good government may be looked upon as the sum of these injuries. On the other hand, Hungary has gained valuable experience, and she has proved to Austria what a formidable opponent she can be even when disarmed and held captive. Hungary, too, has given a noble example to other nations who, now or hereafter, may find themselves in the same unhappy position which she filled for eighteen years. The Hungarian aristocracy directed the nation during its long and painful struggle against a tyrannical Government, and the nation accepted its direction loyally and in good faith. In vain the extreme democrats protested and in vain the Court of Vienna intrigued. The Hungarian leaders would neither be hurried into insurrection, nor would they separate their cause from that of the Hungarian people. There was, of course, merit in following such leaders, and, perhaps, no one class in Hungary ought to be specially praised for what all helped to accomplish. Nevertheless, it has been proved that Hungary possesses an aristocracy

really worthy of the name—an aristocracy that has done its duty under circumstances which might have caused the aristocracy of other countries, less powerfully organised, to yield, on the one hand, to the instigations of the revolutionists, or, on the other, to the temptations of the Court.

Ten years ago there were three "oppressed nationalities" in Europe whose chance of liberation seemed about equally remote—the Hungarian, the Italian, and the Polish. Two of these, from "oppressed nationalities," have become free nations—for Hungary, like Italy, is now in a position to develop freely its true national life. Poland, on the other hand, is in a sadder position than ever. But there may be a limit even to the calamities of Poland. Certainly no one can point out by what means that unhappy country is likely to obtain its freedom; but who, ten years ago, could foresee the time when Piedmont, Lombardy, Naples, and Venice should form part of one kingdom; or when an Emperor of Austria should be crowned at Buda, amid the acclamations of the Hungarian people?

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE CZAR.

On Thursday, the 6th inst., some 60,000 men were reviewed at Longchamps, before the Emperors Napoleon and Alexander and the King of Prussia. Their Majesties entered the Bois de Boulogne at a little before two o'clock. Leaving their carriages, they mounted on horseback, and, accompanied by Princes of the blood, their different staffs and numerous foreign officers, including several Arabs, rode along the dense battalions, which were formed in a vast irregular oblong square. The Czar, on a magnificent black charger, was in the middle, having the King of Prussia on his right and the French Emperor on his left. As soon as their Majesties had ridden along the front of the formation they took up their position before the Grand Stand, and the march past took place. While the Imperial party were returning to Paris, after the review, and at the moment when the carriages were passing near the rocks of the cascade in the Bois de Boulogne, an assassin suddenly emerged from the crowd and fired a double-barrelled pistol. The Emperor's groom in waiting, Raimbeau, perceiving the movement, caused his horse to make a sudden bound, with the object of placing it between the assassin and the Sovereigns. The ball pierced the nostril of the groom's horse, and passed between the Emperors and the Grand Dukes, wounding a lady (Mme. Laborie) on the opposite side of the carriage. The distance between the groom's horse and the Imperial carriage was so short that the blood from the wound in the horse's nostril spurted on to the uniforms of the Czar and Czarowitch. The assassin attempted to fire a second time, but the pistol burst in his hand. He was with difficulty rescued alive from the crowd, who cried out to put him to death, at the same time shouting energetically "Vive l'Empereur!" "Vive le Czar!" The two Sovereigns, whose calmness and presence of mind were not disturbed for one moment, gave orders for the cortège to proceed at a walking pace. The assassin was raised from the ground almost insensible, having the thumb of his left hand shattered by the explosion of the pistol. The front of the Emperor Napoleon's uniform was soiled by the explosion of the assassin's pistol. The Emperor immediately rose, apparently to point out the spot whence the shot had been fired.

The versions given of what Louis Napoleon and Alexander said to each other when the assassin had fired the shot vary considerably. The earliest version records that Napoleon, turning towards Alexander, said, with a smile, "Sire, we have been under fire together." The Czar replied, "Our destinies are in the hands of Providence." A less tragic version makes Louis Napoleon say, "We have been under fire together, and are now brothers in arms." But the most dramatic version is that which makes Louis Napoleon say, "If a Pole, for you; if an Italian, for me!"

On Friday week the prisoner was examined, and the following information was elicited from the culprit, who gave his replies with great coolness:—His name is Berezowski; is twenty years of age, of Polish nationality, and was employed at M. Gouin's, an instrument-maker; after which at M. Cail's, whom he left on May 4, and he has since been living on his savings, augmented by the pecuniary assistance given to refugees. He was asked, "How could you fire at a Sovereign, the guest of France, who nourished you?" He replied, with tears in his eyes, "It is true, I committed a great crime towards France." "But you ran the risk of killing the Emperor Napoleon." "No," he replied, "a Polish bullet could not go astray. It must go straight when aimed at the Czar. I wished to deliver the world of the Czar, and the Czar himself of the remorse which must weigh upon him." He was subsequently questioned by M. Rouher and Schouvaloff, and in reply said that he was an insurgent at sixteen, when he broke off all intercourse with his family. He had not communicated to anyone his intention of assassination, for fear of being betrayed. After the examination Berezowski was perfectly collected. He signed the reports of the proceedings, and showed no sorrow, but expressed his regret at not having been successful.

In the evening the public buildings and a great number of private houses were illuminated. The principal boulevards and streets presented a magnificent aspect. Great crowds filled the streets. As the Emperor Napoleon was returning from St. Cloud, and passing by the Exhibition, he received an enthusiastic welcome. The Czar had a warm reception from the crowds while going in an open carriage to the Grand Hôtel to pay a visit to his sister, the Grand Duchess Mary of Russia. The ball given at the Russian Embassy was magnificent. The Emperor, the Empress, the Czar, and his sons were present, and were received with warm congratulations on their recent escape. In Friday's sitting of the Legislative Body, M. Schneider, the president, said:—"Yesterday, at a moment when our glorious army had just excited the admiration of the Sovereigns assembled in Paris, an odious attempt at assassination was committed by a person of foreign origin. But Providence was watchful, and Evil was powerless (loud cheers). I shall interpret your sentiments and those of our noble and hospitable country by proclaiming the profound indignation which this abominable attempt has excited in all our hearts, and by expressing on this occasion our sincere and respectful sympathy for the august guests of the Emperor and of France."

A letter from General Zamoycki has been published, expressing the sorrow and profound indignation felt by himself and all his fellow-countrymen at the attempt upon the Emperor of Russia's life. At the Russian Church a religious service was held in thanksgiving for the escape of the Czar. After the ceremony the Czarowitch and the Grand Duke Vladimir embraced the Czar and showed great emotion. The two Emperors also embraced. Several members of the Czar's suite are said to have advised his Majesty to return at once to Russia, but the Czar declared that he would not shorten his stay in the French capital.

FOOD AND DRESS IN PARIS.—The Paris Chamber of Commerce has published some curious statistics relative to the consumption of various articles of food, dress, &c., in the French capital. The amount of beef and mutton consumed annually by the Parisians is valued at 153,000,000*fr.* and of bread at 95,000,000*fr.* The Parisians spend most money, however, on wine, of which they buy 192,000,000*fr.* worth a year. Notwithstanding this, there is a large consumption of beer, upwards of 10,000,000*fr.* worth being drunk yearly. The consumption of chocolate is increasing; its annual value now amounts to 16,000,000*fr.* Another favourite article of food is pastry. There are in Paris 622 pastrycooks, whose gross receipts amount yearly to upwards of 21,000,000*fr.* About half this sum is spent yearly in confectionery (bonbons, &c.) Besides this, 104,000,000*fr.* are spent every year by the Parisians in restaurants, the same amount on tailors, 8,000,000*fr.* for corsets, 15,000,000*fr.* for gloves, 20,000,000*fr.* for hats and bonnets, 18,000,000*fr.* for false diamonds, 1,500,000*fr.* for false teeth, 84,000*fr.* for glass eyes, 730,000*fr.* for masquerade dresses, 22,000,000*fr.* for perfumery and cosmetics, 5,000,000*fr.* for fans, 28,000,000*fr.* for artificial flowers, and 15,000,000*fr.* for buttons.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

As previously arranged, the Czar took leave of the Emperor Napoleon on Tuesday evening, and proceeded with his younger son to Germany. The Czarowitch travelled by the Northern line for London.

The ball at the Hôtel de Ville, on Saturday last, given by the city of Paris to the Emperor and Empress of the French, the Emperor of Russia, and the King of Prussia, was splendid beyond all other fêtes of a like nature. The Imperial party were enthusiastically cheered on their way to the Hôtel de Ville, and the vast assembly inside the edifice took up the cheers on the entrance of the Royal guests.

There was a splendid ball at the Tuileries on Monday night, at which the Royal guests of the Emperor were present. On Tuesday the Emperor Napoleon, the Czar and his two sons, and the King and the Crown Prince of Prussia, went to Fontainebleau to lunch and promenade in the forest.

It is now officially announced that the Queen of Spain will pay a visit to Paris in July.

There has been a discussion among the members of the Bar in Paris as to whether those Advocates who hooted the Czar at the Palais de Justice should be proceeded against by a professional court. The Council of Barristers has decided by seven votes to six that there was nothing in the conduct of the Advocates which required them to be proceeded against.

On Monday a duel was fought between "Maitre Floquet" and M. Latouche, one of the writers in the *Pays*, the cause of quarrel being an article written by the latter, in which he charged the "Maitre" with being an accomplice of Berezowski. After M. Floquet had been twice wounded in the hand the fight was discontinued.

ITALY.

All the Bureaux of the Chamber of Deputies have rejected Signor Ferrara's bill, together with the convention respecting the ecclesiastical property. The commissioners whom they have elected will submit counter-proposals to the Chamber.

M. Brasseur, the agent of M. Langrand-Dumonceau, threatens to appeal to the tribunals to declare that the convention which he signed with the Government as to the Church property shall be held valid as against that since made with Messrs. Erlanger and Co. and Messrs. Schroeder and Co. As the Italian Government failed to carry out the first convention because the Parliament declined to sanction it, M. Brasseur's chance of succeeding in his suit does not seem to be very great. But the present Parliament likes the second convention no better than its predecessor did the first, and there is every likelihood of some rough work for the Government arising out of this vexed question.

PRUSSIA.

It is said that the Emperor Napoleon may be expected to visit Berlin in September next.

A report is afloat that Prussia is firmly resolved not to carry out in its integrity that clause in the Treaty of Prague which relates to the retrocession of North Schleswig. Something is to be given back to Denmark; but those strong places, Alsen and Düppel, are to be retained.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor of Austria was crowned as King of Hungary, on Saturday last, at Buda. A general amnesty was proclaimed on the occasion, and the enthusiasm of the populace was very great.

Their Majesties have ordered that the sum of money presented to them for their Coronation shall be devoted to pensioning invalided Honveds and orphans of soldiers of that corps.

POLAND.

The Governor of Warsaw has abolished the prohibition against people being in the streets after midnight, and ordered that the passes hitherto necessary for entering and leaving the town shall no longer be required.

CRETE.

Intelligence from Athens to the 6th inst. announces that the Greek steamer *Arcadi*, being pursued by four Turkish war vessels, took refuge at the Greek island of Cerigotto, where she was blockaded and fired upon by the Turks. One sailor was killed and two were wounded. The Greek Government, upon being informed of this event, dispatched a frigate to protect the *Arcadi*.

TURKEY.

The Sultan has fresh troubles. A conspiracy against him is said to have been discovered at Constantinople, and arrests are being made. Not improbably the persons thus arrested are opposed to the concessions which are being granted by the Porte. Small as these concessions are, they are sufficient to rouse the ancient bigotry of the Mussulmen.

THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Jefferson Davis has arrived at St. Catherine's, in Canada, and was enthusiastically received and cheered at Toronto, en route to his destination.

It is reported that Mr. Sumner and Mr. Ashley, members of Congress, are urging a July Session of Congress, in order to pass a general Negro Suffrage Bill, and act on the impeachment of Mr. Johnson.

An official opinion of Attorney-General Stanberry, defining the disfranchising clauses of the Reconstruction Act, has been promulgated. He states that the Act disfranchises all participants in the rebellion who were members of Congress, members of State Legislatures, State officials, militia officers, or holders of any office under the United States. Also, members of the rebel Congress and rebel diplomatic representatives. But the Act does not disfranchise rebel county, municipal, judicial, or temporary State officers. Involuntary payments of Confederate taxes cannot be construed as aiding the rebellion. The Southern boards of registry are obliged to register as voters all who take the prescribed oath. The boards have no power to determine the truth or falsity of such oaths. It is expected that the Southern district commanders will administer the Reconstruction Act as interpreted by Mr. Stanberry.

Mr. Seward, in a letter to Mr. Hale, United States Minister at Madrid, announces that Spain has agreed to join a conference for the settlement of the questions at issue between her and the South American republics if the duration of the conference and the qualifications of a final arbitrator be specified. Mr. Seward states that if the conference fails the President of the United States will in good faith select an impartial arbitrator; but if Spain insists upon exacting qualifications for an arbitrator, the United States must withdraw their proposition.

THE ARCHDUCHESS MATILDA.—The unfortunate Archduchess Matilda of Austria, whose death, from the effects of the injuries she received in consequence of her dress taking fire accidentally, has just been announced, was in her nineteenth year, having been born Jan. 25, 1849. She was the daughter of Archduke Albert Frederic Rodolphe, and granddaughter of the Archduke Charles, brother to Francis I. of Austria, and well known as the leader of the Austrian armies in the wars with Napoleon I. The Archduke Charles died in 1847. The mother of the Archduchess Matilda was Hildegard Louise Charlotte Theresa Frederica, daughter of Louis, King of Bavaria. The young Archduchess lost her mother April 8, 1864. On the 22nd of last month, as she was standing looking out of a window in the palace, she suddenly felt a burning heat, and screamed out. Her attendants hastened towards her, and perceived that the unfortunate lady was in flames. From some cause unknown, for it is said there was neither fire nor light in the room, her clothes had taken fire, and her back, arm, neck, and the lower extremities were seriously burned before the flames could be extinguished. It was supposed that she must have trodden on a match which had been carelessly dropped on the floor. At the time of the accident the worst results were apprehended, in consequence of the inflammation that supervened, but a few days later it was announced that the unfavourable symptoms were subsiding, and hopes of her recovery were entertained. The prolonged suffering has, however, been too much for her system, and, after lingering a fortnight, she expired on Thursday week, at eight o'clock. The whole Court of Vienna have manifested the deepest sympathy for the sufferer, and her decease, as already announced, will cause considerable changes in the programme for the festivities of the coronation of the Emperor as King of Hungary.

THE FALL OF QUERETARO.

It is curious that Queretaro, which by its fall has ended the Mexican Empire, should have been the same city in which the treaty of peace was signed, after the war between Mexico and the United States twenty years ago, which gave the latter country Texas and California. The last victory, though by one Mexican faction over another, may also result in more annexation; for the Secretary of State already has his eyes bent upon the northern Mexican provinces. The city which has acquired such fame by Maximilian's downfall is 110 miles north-west of Mexico city, and is the capital of the Mexican State of Queretaro, a sparsely-settled but fertile mountainous district of 2444 square miles in extent. The city is fortified strongly, and was probably captured more from internal dissensions and the privations of its garrison than by any extraordinary military skill on the part of its besiegers. Maximilian entered Queretaro, on Feb. 19, with 10,000 men, and found there 6000 more, under Mejia and Castillo. These were nearly all the troops upon whom he could rely, and he determined, by uniting them under his personal command, to settle, if possible, the quarrels about precedence among his subordinate officers which had impaired the efficiency of his army. Maximilian thus found himself in the centre of a fertile portion of the country, if any country desolated by war as Mexico is can be called fertile; and equidistant from his own capital, and that of the Liberalists at San Luis Potosi. But the Liberalists had already had cavalry parties marauding around Queretaro, and as soon as Maximilian posted himself there they determined to begin the siege. They threatened Puebla, Vera Cruz, and the capital, and on April 1 an assault was made on Puebla, which ended in its surrender next day. Several thousand Liberalists had kept up a partial siege of Queretaro before this, and the fall of Puebla set free enough of their army to enable them to entirely surround it. They then began to siege in earnest, and had frequent and bloody encounters before its walls, which resulted in varying success. Maximilian was deprived of supplies, and his garrison became discontented and in some cases mutinous. Miramon, one of his ablest generals, was badly wounded, and this added to his troubles. While he could successfully resist armed attacks, he could not resist the weakening effects of hunger and misfortune, and he began to treat with the besiegers. They rejected all terms of capitulation, determined to starve him into an unconditional surrender, and sooner, perhaps, than they anticipated the surrender came. Escobedo had planned an attack upon an outwork of the garrison known as the "Cruz Fort" for the morning of May 15. The attack was made before daylight, and the fort was taken by surprise. In their retreat to the inner line, being raked by artillery, the Imperialists were thrown into confusion, and the Liberalists, who never anticipated so much success, were enabled to make a breach and get into the city. Probably fearing an indiscriminate slaughter, or, perhaps, as much disheartened as his half-starved garrison, Maximilian met them with an unconditional surrender, and carnage ceased. All the Imperialists and their munitions of war fell into the hands of the captors, without a single stipulation being made for the safety of any man's life. Whether the Liberalists cruelly put to death a score of their prisoners, as was the case at Puebla, is not known; but Maximilian, as late as May 17, was safe. He was then being transported under guard to Juarez, at San Luis Potosi, 120 miles distant.

Juarez, who by this victory becomes for a little time the ruler of Mexico, is described by Secretary Seward's messenger, who bore the recent intercession for Maximilian's life, as a slow-motioned, stout, and heavily-built man, about sixty years of age, with short, straight black hair and black eyes, a clean-shaven, broad, and coarse-featured face, expressive of much determination and general intelligence, and a large and well-set head. He is a full-blooded Mexican Indian. His utterance is slow, but marked with much decision. He speaks no English. Whether he will be able successfully to rule the turbulent country over which he has been called to preside, is a question that time only can solve. With so many rivals as he has, and in a land that has had an average of one ruler for every fifteen months of the last half century of its existence, the chances of his having either a long or a quiet reign are decidedly poor.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS.—A very beautiful display of American plants is now on view at these gardens in Regent's Park, and will remain open to public inspection during the present month. Mr. J. Waterer, the exhibitor, has long been famous for his success in cultivating and hybridising the hardy flowering shrubs of the American continent, and his display upon the present occasion fully maintains his reputation. Some of the plants are enormous trees—single stems with heads of 28 ft. or 30 ft. in circumference, and have been brought to the gardens from the nursery at Bagshot in large wooden boxes. The plants are arranged in a tent occupying an extent of upwards of 20,000 square feet, and are so tastefully arranged as to present a sight of uncommon beauty.

MR. THOMAS CARLYLE UPON THE LONDON STREETS.—The following letter from Mr. Thomas Carlyle appears in the *Times*:—"Sir, I could still wish, by way of marginal note to your friendly article of Monday last (the *Times* of June 3), to add, for my own sake and for a much-valued friend's, the two following little bits of commentary:—1st. That I by no means join in heavily blaming Mr. Ruskin, and, indeed, do not blame him at all, but, the contrary, except for the almost inexcusable practical blunder of printing my name, and then of carelessly hurling topsy-turvy into wild incredulity all he had to report of me—of me, and indirectly of the whole vast multitude of harmless neighbours, whom I live with here, in London and its suburbs, more than 2,000,000 of us, I should think, who all behave by second nature in an obliging, peaceable, and perfectly human manner to each other, and are all struck with amazement at Mr. Ruskin's hasty paragraph upon us. 2nd. That in regard to the populace or *canaille* of London, to the class distinguishable by behaviour as our non-human or half-human neighbours, which class is considerably more extensive and miscellaneous, and much more dismal and disgusting than you seem to think, I substantially agree with all that Mr. Ruskin has said of it.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant, T. CARLYLE.—Chelsea, June 7."

THE EDUCATION OF LABOURERS' CHILDREN.—The Leicestershire Chamber of Agriculture, at their meeting on Saturday last, decided that, having no experience of the practical working of the agricultural gang system, they do not feel in a position to express an opinion on the subject, and cannot approve of the bill introduced by Mr. Fawcett upon the better education of children employed in agriculture; at the same time, they were ready and anxious to discuss any well-considered measure upon the subject of the moral and educational condition of the agricultural classes. The majority were opposed to any improvement in the system of education amongst agricultural labourers, who had been made worse than they formerly were by the present means of education. Among the latter speakers was Mr. Inett, of Asfordby, who adverted to the time at which it was stated that children should be employed. He wanted to know how men with large families were to feed their children until they were thirteen years of age (Laughter and "Hear, hear"). If they were to educate them till they were thirteen they could not keep them from eating (Laughter). He asked them whether they did not think boys were more likely to make efficient labourers if they went to work at ten than at thirteen. They were less likely to associate together and to get into vile habits than they were at thirteen. He should be sorry to say anything against education; but it had not had that influence upon the agricultural labourers that was expected; in fact, the influence had not been for the better, but for the worse (Hear, hear). He had been a farmer now for fifty years, and he said, without fear of contradiction, that the labourers nowadays were a worse class than they were fifty years ago; they were more dissatisfied with the position in society in which they were placed; they were not so industrious, not so honest, and altogether a different class of men to what they were then (Hear, hear). They thought more of themselves, and their families tried to cut a better figure than their masters in the village; they thought nothing about their masters' interests, and not only did not keep their hands from picking and stealing, but were very much given to poaching. Then, again, he said education had done nothing to advance the efficiency of the labouring population. With the exception of an odd instance here and there of a skilful labourer, who had been brought out by the extra improvements the agriculturists had adopted, there were many occupations that they never saw attempted nowadays. There were very few men who tried to cut a hedge or shear a sheep. Probably the farmers had themselves to thank in some degree for this, because there was a time when they used to keep from three to five men in the kitchen. They went there as boys, and served a sort of apprenticeship. They were kept there till they knew something; but now they went from bird-scaring to plough-driving, and became labourers. If they wanted them to do anything with a spade or a scythe, not half of them could do it. As he had said, they had to thank themselves in some degree for this, for just as the landlords wished to clear their estates of poor houses, they wished to clear their kitchens of the plagues there were there. He could not think education had done anything for the agriculturists.

REFORM OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

(From the Times.)

THE magnitude of recent events in the House of Commons may be better judged of by their effect upon men's minds than by contemplating the events themselves. We have got the substance, though without the noise, violence, and tumult, of a political revolution. The change of 1832, vast as it was in itself and its results, is insignificant by the side of the change of 1867. It is beginning to be felt that the transference of power effected by the Reform Bill calls for a review of our whole system, and for a remodelling of it so as to bring it into harmony with that which we have just done. It will be found, we believe, that hardly any question of the day wears exactly the same aspect that it did before the recent change. We cannot, therefore, wonder that attention should be turned towards that which once was an assembly of even greater authority than the House of Commons, and that schemes should be agitated for bringing the Peerage into harmony with the altered institutions of the empire. The lowering of the franchise explains the attention which has been drawn to this subject, but, setting aside this extraordinary motive, the state of the House of Peers is such as to invite the consideration of all who feel an interest in its preservation. In the absence of external violence, great institutions seldom fall, except from their own inherent decay. We can recall no instance of a body composed of persons so eminent and clothed with functions so transcendent which neglects its duty so persistently as our own House of Peers. In a country where every man has his work laid down for him, where, above all other countries, rank and property carry with them their corresponding duties and responsibilities, we must look to the highest and most dignified body in the State if we would find the most complete neglect of duties and disregard of obligations. A very small fraction of its members ever enters the House of Peers; the remainder are kept away by more tempting avocations of pleasure or of business, and by the dread of having to serve on those Select Committees for private business from which even the House of Peers has found no means to deliver itself. The functions of the assembly are discharged by a very few members, who, having for the most part served in the House of Commons, have some idea of business and some notion of the duties devolving on the man who occupies a seat in the Legislature. As for debates, if you want to see the prominent members of the House of Lords while the House is sitting, you must look for them, not in their own chamber, but under the gallery of the House of Commons. There they find the stir, the conflict, the excitement of political life; in the gorgeous chamber of the Peers there is nothing but muttering and gloom, now and then enlivened by some ignoble contention. It used to be thought, and justly, that the debates in the House of Peers on important occasions exceeded in interest, in statesman-like insight, and often in eloquence, the best efforts of the House of Commons. Nobody, we think, will say so now. The voices that used to command our attention and our respect are either hushed in death or tremulous with age, and no new generation of noble orators has arisen to take the place of those who are departing. This is not to be wondered at. It is not in such an arena, in this rapid mimicry of a Parliamentary assembly, that are formed those habits of debate which enforce conviction and refute opposition. Not only is the House of Lords unable to teach its members anything new; in its soporific atmosphere the keenest intellect grows dull; the brightest eloquence poor, pointless, and wearisome; the degeneracy of one generation propagates and exaggerates itself in the degeneracy of the next; and, if things go on at this rate, the House of Lords is in a fair way to be the wealthiest, the most highly descended, the most useless, and the most indolent assembly in the world.

The causes of this lamentable decline in the industrial and intellectual standard of one of the oldest and most honourable assemblies in the world are various. Something, no doubt, is due to the hereditary principle. Among four hundred and fifty persons, four hundred of whom have inherited their rank with their estates, there must, according to the ordinary course of nature, be many persons below and many very little above the average standard of ability. But this, though an excuse for mediocrity, is no apology for indolence. We do not doubt that there exists within the House of Peers, recruited as it continually is by members of the most acute and industrious of professions, and having received the best education that England can bestow, a superabundance of talent quite sufficient to maintain its intellectual influence in the country. An able man needs nothing but publicity, and the floor of the House of Lords is an excellent place for making known to the public anything that the public cares to know. Something, no doubt, is owing to the absurd and utterly indefensible system of proxies, by which a peer who has not heard the debate, who knows nothing of the question or the arguments on either side, is enabled to neutralise the voice of another present on the spot and thoroughly cognisant of the whole matter in discussion. This is not merely a contrivance for deciding wrong; it must generate in the minds of any assembly where it is employed a very low standard of the duties required from its members. What notion of responsibility can a man have as connected with a duty which he is enabled to discharge by delegating it to another? How can he be expected to be a diligent attendant in an assembly which is willing to dispense with his presence? Another cause, no doubt, is to be found in the absence of a quorum. The House of Commons is liable to be adjourned if any member takes notice that there are not forty members present. In the House of Lords there is no such rule. It is not uncommon for important business to be transacted with only three peers present, and we are not sure that even this number is the minimum. The public would be astonished were we to report, as we have often been tempted to do, the precise number of peers present when very weighty measures are discussed. Such a practice on the part of the press would be one of the most formidable means that could be employed to show the House of Peers to themselves and to the country in their true colours. Then, in the House of Lords social predominate over political influences. The dinner-hour partially empties the House of Commons, but it breaks up the House of Peers. Being always anxious to contract their sittings within this limit, the peers look with marked disfavour on anyone who presumes to protract their proceedings. A young member who comes forward, except on those rare occasions when the House has made up its mind to a post-prandial debate, loses caste by his overzeal. Thus it is next to impossible for a young peer to obtain that training without which the brightest abilities are sure to rust and the most energetic will is sure to be relaxed.

These things would at any time be quite sufficient to call the attention of thoughtful men to the subject; but the House of Peers has selected for the abnegation of its duties and its influence precisely that period in our history when its services as a moderator and conservator are most imperatively called for. We have, as has often been observed, concentrated all power, legislative and executive, in the House of Commons. Hitherto it has had a strong—many think a too strong—affinity to the House of Peers. It has been complained that the People's Chamber is too rich, too highly connected, to sympathise with the toiling millions. This complaint will be true no longer. The new House of Commons, whatever else it may represent, will give full expression to the opinions of the working classes. Property and intelligence naturally look for protectors and advocates to the House of Peers; and the answer is, that the House of Peers has seen fit, for its own greater ease and comfort, to efface itself from the Constitution, and has no voice left wherewith to speak, no members with whom to deliberate. This calls for the immediate attention of practical statesmen. Measures should be taken, if it be not already too late, for the resuscitation of a body which is dearer to us than to itself. We must save the peers from suicide, if not for their own sake, at any rate for ours. The abolition of proxies and the establishment of a quorum are indispensable steps, but by themselves they would be by no means sufficient. If the House of Peers is to be of any use, it should be made to discharge the duties and to carry with it the weight of a Senate. The necessity is pressing, if those high func-

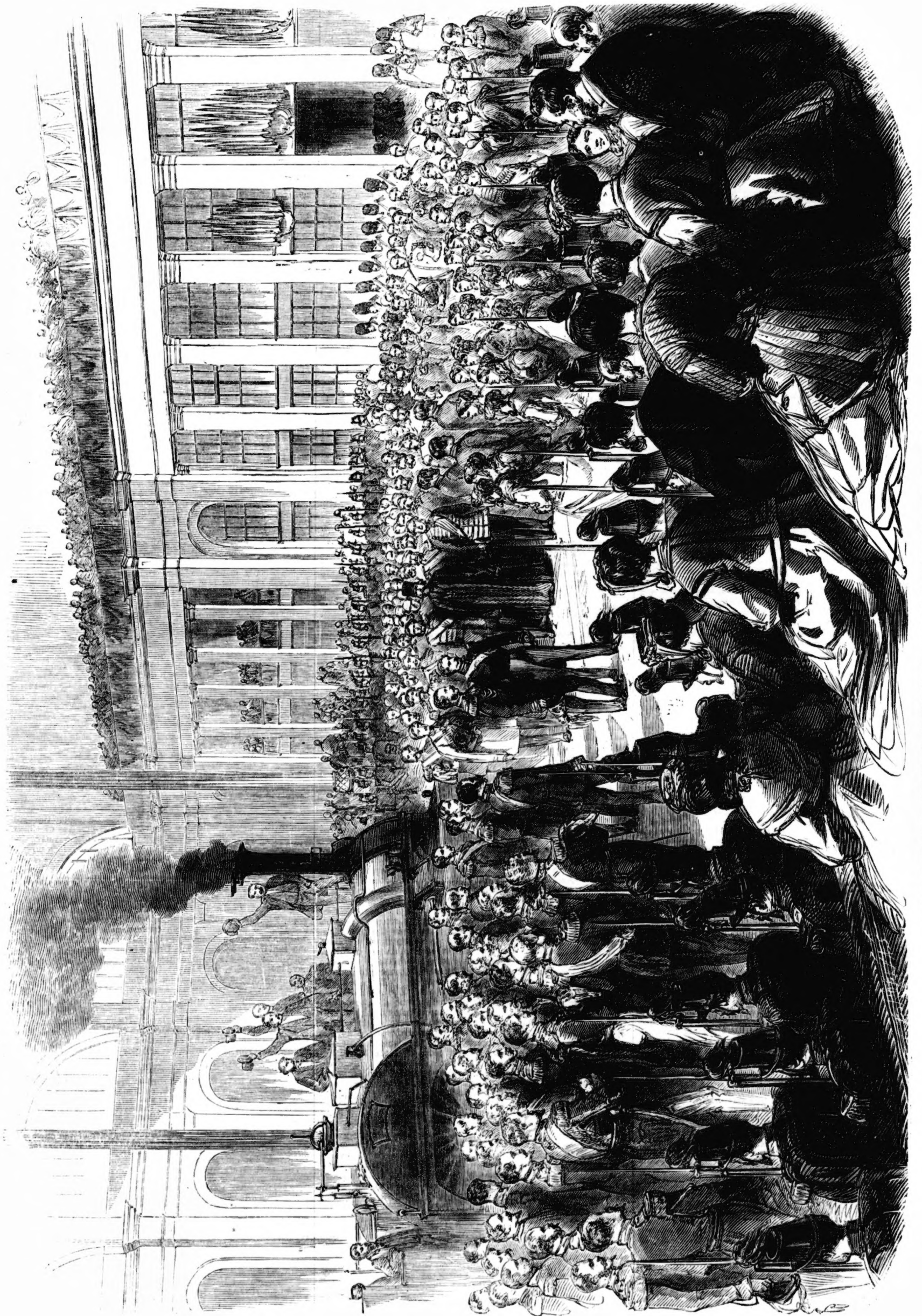
tions of legislative and political duty so nobly won, so long exercised, and now, as it would seem, about to be so tamely and so listlessly, not to say so meanly and so ingloriously, abandoned, are to be preserved for the House of Peers.

MR. DISRAELI ON THE MINISTERIAL POLICY.

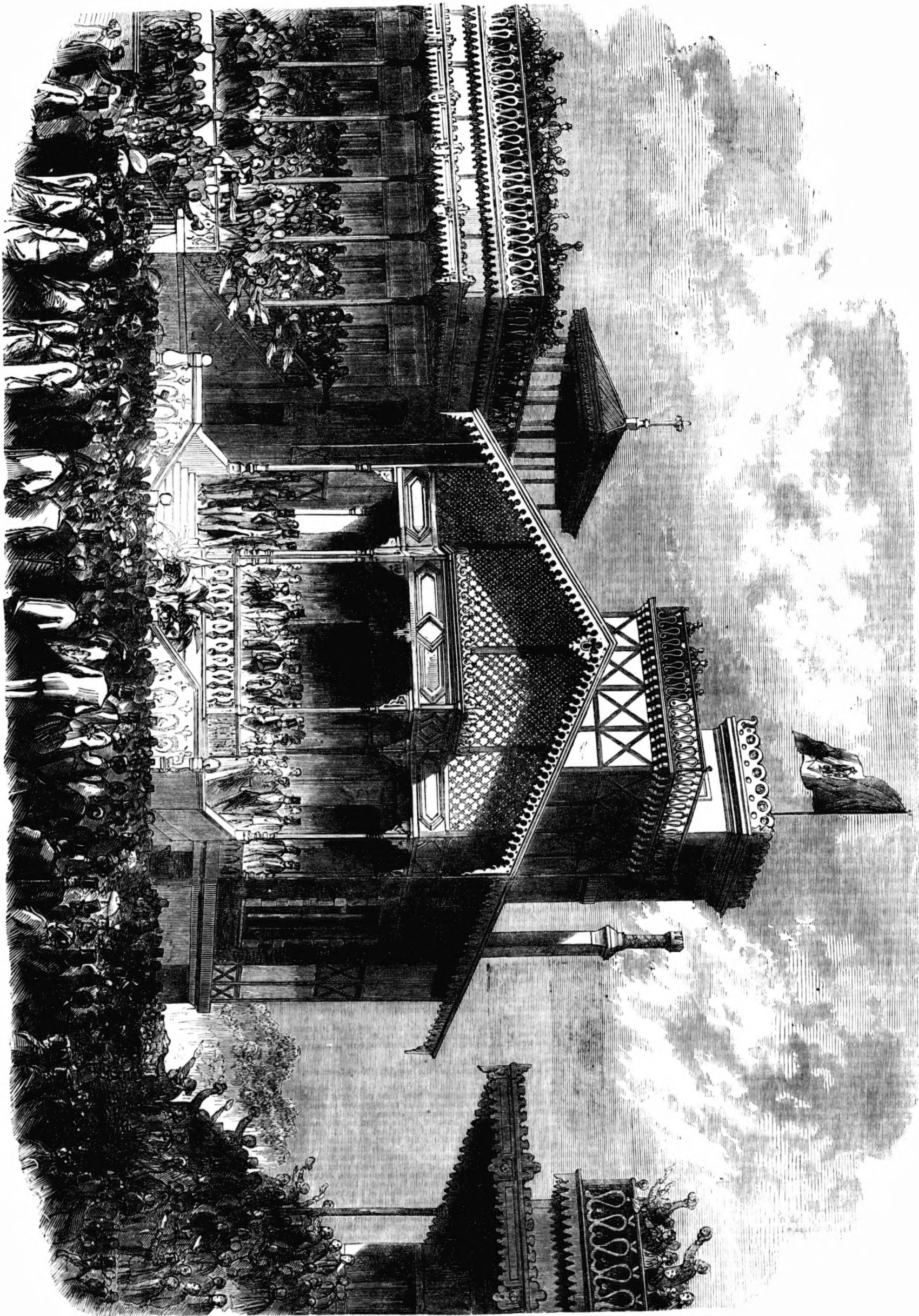
THE Chancellor of the Exchequer was present at the annual banquet of the Merchant Taylors' Company on Tuesday evening, and, in replying to the toast of "Her Majesty's Ministers," took occasion to speak particularly of the Ministerial policy in regard to the Reform Bill now under the consideration of Parliament, and the probable effect on the country should that measure become a statute. He observed that the question of Parliamentary Reform was a subject that had for a number of years perplexed and interested the country. No attempt hitherto made to solve its difficulties had recommended itself to public approbation. By praising a certain section of the working classes in a manner which, he thought, was scarcely consistent with our national dignity, by declaring that a limited portion of them are skilled mechanics, by overloading them with epithets from which good taste will sometimes recoil, an effort had been made to establish a body which, had the attempt been successful, would have dominated over a portion of the middle class. It appeared to the Ministers that this was a policy most dangerous, and might be most disastrous, and to all such efforts they had offered the most undeviating opposition. They had endeavoured to take a larger view of the question; not merely to look upon it as a means to diminish the influence of a rival party, but rather to esteem it as a means of establishing some system that might conduce to the permanence and greatness of the nation. It had been asked how they, who opposed the measure that was brought forward last year, which was in some respects limited in its character, could now introduce and uphold a measure much wider and more comprehensive in its arrangements. The answer, he thought, was extremely easy, and not only consistent with their sense of duty, but with the truth of surrounding circumstances. They looked upon the measure of last year as a party measure, and as one which, if carried, would have seriously injured, if not destroyed, that Conservative party with which this country is so intimately connected; while, at the same time, it would not have satisfied the requirements of the State. They considered that the measure they had now brought forward is one that will not injure the Conservative party, and which will satisfy the requirements of the State. He had heard that through it danger to the institutions of this country was apprehended. To what institution? Is it to the Monarchy? He believed that in these days of splendour, when large bodies of her Majesty's subjects covered with stars and ribbons assemble round her, she is not regarded by subjects more devoted than those she despises among the toiling millions of the country. Is it, then, the Parliament that is to be endangered? All this agitation is but a desire on the part of the people of this country to become more intimately associated with one of the Houses of Parliament—the House of Commons. That House is about to undergo a great change—a change, however, not occasioned by any feeling of discontent with the constitution or the conduct of the House, but, on the contrary, arising from a certain degree of estimation, and even of admiration, and the desire of a great portion of the people to be more intimately united to it. As to the other House, he must, indeed, be much mistaken in the character of the English people who thinks that an assembly of men who are the greatest proprietors of the country, and many of them men of great lineage, will not always command the respect of a country so much influenced by tradition as England is. The only criticism of the House of Lords one ever hears from the multitude is a regret that they are not more active in public affairs. Nor would the Church of England be in more danger than it was at the present moment. If the profession and propagation of its doctrines, assisted by unrivalled education, by varied intelligence and vast wealth, can fail to exercise a due influence among the population, the fault would, in his opinion, be with the pastors, and not with the Church. Nor would the military and naval services suffer from the future House of Commons. It had been said that great danger was to be apprehended from changes which the new constituencies will enforce in the system of taxation; that taxation will be thrown upon property, and that we shall return to the old protective system. These two propositions destroy each other; and it is impossible that we can return to the old protective system and at the same time throw the whole burden of taxation on property. None of these dangers are to be apprehended by the measure now before the House of Commons. An opinion had often been promulgated at the present day that the Conservative party is always to do nothing, that their great mission is to act as a drag on the progress of the country. He had always protested against such a state of things, and was glad to say that, with others, he had contributed, as he hoped, to its utter extirpation. He believed that there was nothing more important for the country than that there should be between the two great parties of the State a generous and politic competition in the fulfilment of those duties and the execution of those works which are necessary in the progress of time for the nation's greatness. He was sure that if the Conservative party acted on the dogma to which he had referred, and which no doubt would be extremely convenient to their opponents, the end would be decrepitude of the party. Such were not the opinions of the Tory party in better days. Mr. Pitt was not content to be the drag-chain of a party. It had been said that we are on the verge of a great democratic change. The elements of democracy do not exist in England, which is a country of classes, and the change that is impending will only make those classes more united, more content, more complete, and more cordial. There is no similarity in the position of the United Kingdom and the United States. The United States were colonies, and still are colonies; because communities do not cease to be colonies if they have independence. They have settlements of democracy in America; they have unbounded possession of land, and they have no traditions. We, on the contrary, have a very limited portion of land, and a vast, numerous, artificial, and complicated state of society, entirely governed and sustained by its traditional influences. Therefore he had no fear of England. He hoped he was as sensible to the feeling of patriotism as any man in the country, and he was proud and happy that the conduct of that great change which he believed will add to the greatness and glory of the country had fallen to the Tory party.

VOLUNTEER REVIEW AT WINDSOR.—A grand review of the north-east London volunteers, in Windsor Park, on Monday, was attended by a vast concourse of spectators. The weather was everything that could be desired, and added to the singular and almost endless variety for which this year has been remarkable, one of the brightest and loveliest summer days of which our climate is capable. A portion of the 2nd Life Guards was present, and added much to the picturesque character of the display. We regret to say that several accidents occurred in the course of the evolutions. A similar review of some distinguished metropolitan corps took place at Panshanger Park, the seat of Earl Cowper.

THE LATE STRIKE ON THE NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.—The fact that 800 men formerly in the employ of the North-Eastern Railway Company are still out of employment in consequence of the late strike of the engine-drivers and firemen on the line causing much discussion in railway circles, and meetings have been held with a view of giving them relief and obtaining situations for them on other lines of railway. The men have been receiving a weekly allowance from the Engine-drivers and Firemen's United Society, the money having been obtained by a weekly levy of 3s. on the drivers and 2s. on the firemen employed on the various lines throughout the kingdom. The sum has, however, now been lowered, a meeting of the United Society having recently determined "that, with the view of getting all members of the society to subscribe to the levy, it be reduced from 3s. to 2s. drivers, and from 2s. to 1s. firemen, per week." At a subsequent meeting just held, the subject of the men was again brought before the committee, and after a long discussion the following resolution was agreed to: "That relief be given fairly and indiscriminately to the members who stood out for one month, and who are now out of work through the strikes on the North-Eastern Railway, and that they be advised, one and all, to seek employment." The central committee of the Engine-drivers and Firemen's United Society have decided on "inviting a meeting of directors, shareholders, superintendents, and engine-drivers and firemen, with the view to a settlement of present disputes, and to provide for such harmonious action as would prevent misunderstandings leading to strikes."



THE CZAR IN PARIS: RECEPTION AT THE NORTH OF FRANCE RAILWAY STATION.—SEE PAGE 386.



THE IMPERIAL STAND AT THE RACES AT LONGCHAMPS. PARIS.—SEE PAGE 350.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 307.

"TALKING POTATOES."

ONE day last week Mr. Smollett, the member for Dumbartonshire, and great-grand-nephew of one Tobias Smollett, historian and novelist, designated some of our members as "talking potatoes." The designation is somewhat coarse, but, "Pardon it. The phrase is to the matter," as Mr. Smollett's phrases generally are; for Mr. Smollett is a plainspoken man, and speaks always direct to the point. "Talking potatoes!" What did he mean by this? some of our readers may ask. Well, he meant to say that there are fellows in the House who, except the mere gift of speech, have no more qualification for addressing the House than potatoes; and, though this may be a strong metaphor—somewhat exaggerated, perhaps—it with sufficient accuracy describes a considerable number of our talking members. Those, to wit, who talk for an hour and more and say nothing, because really they have nothing to say; and those who may have a little worth saying do so overlay it with words that it is like Gratiano's reasons—as two grains of wheat hid in two bushels of chaff. You shall seek all day ere you find them, and when you have them they are not worth the search. These "talking potatoes" are numerous in the House, and elsewhere also, as all who frequent clubs or dine out, and, indeed, those who do neither, too well know. In the House they are to be found in both parties—if there be two parties now, which, perhaps, is doubtful. They belong to all professions—mercantile, military, naval, and legal—and may also be discovered amongst gentlemen of no profession. Perhaps in the legal fraternity they are most numerous; for your lawyers are sadly given to talk about nothing, or to making much ado about a little. These "talking potatoes" are to be found amongst the representatives of the three nations; but, clearly, Ireland sends us most, and Scotland the fewest. Indeed, Scotland sends us very few. There is this difference between your Irishman and your Scotchman: the Irishman thinks that a measure is brought into the House specially to be talked about, and too often to be obstructed by talk. Obstructing by talk is a favourite stratagem with Irishmen. Whereas Scotchmen, if a measure be not satisfactory, set to work seriously to make it better, mostly in private; and when a measure is reasonably good their policy is not to talk about it, but to put it through swiftly, as the Yankees say. The "talking potatoes" are, as rough Mr. Smollett hinted, a pestilent race; and we could wish that a potato rot might seize them, and erase them at least from the House of Commons. But this is a utopian wish. Shall we name some of the more prominent "talking potatoes"? No; that would be unpolite. Better, as occasion may arise, introduce to our readers gentlemen who are not "talking potatoes."

A NEW SPEAKER.

And here is one, gentlemen—Mr. Herbert, son and heir of the late Right Hon. Henry Arthur Herbert, of Muckross, Killarney, Ireland, who for nearly twenty years sat in the House for Kerry—alas that we should have to say "late"!—for Mr. Herbert died prematurely, and, moreover, was much respected in the House. He, as our readers may remember, was Chief Secretary for Ireland from June, 1857, to March, 1858—only that short time, for Lord Derby came into power in 1858, and after his Government succumbed, in 1859, Mr. Herbert's health was shaken, and he could not take office again. He died last year, and his son, now before us, succeeded to his estates. Mr. Herbert has, then, been in the House about a year; but he had not spoken at any length before he rose on Thursday night week. Though conscious of speaking powers, he consented to be a silent listener. This stamps the man. Though an Irishman, he is not a "talking potato." There is a time to be silent and a time to speak, says the wise man. Mr. Herbert recognised the truth of the saying. For several months he remained silent. At last the time came to speak, and he spoke. And he spoke calmly, modestly, plainly, and yet with no little force, and with the easy manner of a gentleman. The subject of his speech was an Irish grievance—small, perhaps; but irritating and annoying. The Guards recruit in England and Scotland, but not in Ireland. Every other regiment recruits in Ireland, but not the crack regiments. "And why not?" said Mr. Herbert. And, as there was no answer given to this pertinent question, of course this small grievance will have to be abolished; and to Mr. Herbert will belong the honour of its abolition.

A NEW CRITIC OF THE ESTIMATES.

Some years ago old Mr. Williams, the noted promoter of economy, left the House, and shortly afterwards left the world. Mr. Williams took up the mantle of Joseph Hume; but, as we all remember, it did not fit him well; or, in plain words, Joseph Hume was a very intelligent, keen, and able critic of finance, while Mr. Williams was nothing of the sort. He was honest, and as watchful at his post as a faithful dog; but he lacked intelligence, and the consequence was that he often objected to expenditure which was unobjectionable and neglected what was indefensible, and consequently had no influence whatever. Mr. Williams's principle seemed to be to object to everything that he could not understand; and, as he could understand but little, he was always objecting, and always without success. After his death, his mantle lay on the ground for a long time. Of course there were, and always have been, plenty of financial critics; but there was no professed critic like Williams, who considered himself the special defender of the public purse. But now we have got one. Mr. Alderman Lusk has picked up the mantle of Hume, which Williams assumed, and has flung it over his own shoulders. But here, again, we discover that the dress does not make the man. The mantle is Hume's, but it is not a Hume, or anyone like a Hume, under it. In short, in this department Mr. Lusk, like Williams, is a failure; and it could not have been otherwise. Hume had a long Parliamentary experience. Mr. Lusk has had less than two years. Mr. Hume made the study of our expenditure the business of his life, and he brought to that study rare intelligence, sagacity, and untiring industry, and consequently had gained a vast and accurate knowledge of every branch of our expenditure. It is said of him that he was never wrong in his facts. Mr. Lusk, it is probable, never looked into an Estimate before 1865. Besides, he has work to attend to elsewhere. He is an Alderman of the City, and has a business there. How, then, can he with all these disadvantages hope to emulate his great predecessor? Hume was a terror to all Government evildoers; but Lusk excites no alarm, and hardly any attention. Hume knew all that financial region as well as a sporting gentleman knows his covers. He knew where the jobs lurked, and he had the scent of a pointer in finding them out. Lusk, like Williams, resembles a cockney sportsman who, ignorant of the country, wanders about aimlessly; and, knowing nothing about game, fires at everything that rises—pigeons, crows, and sparrows—while the real game lies snugly under cover and escapes him. In saying this, we mean no disrespect to Mr. Lusk. A man can act successfully only according to his gifts. Mr. Lusk, from no fault of his own, cannot possibly have any special gifts in this direction. In leaving this subject, we may notice that incompetent critics of finance do much harm. By objecting to what is unobjectionable they divert attention from what is vicious. If Mr. Lusk wishes to be a successful critic of finance let him stick to one department. Leaving the military, and the naval, and the law votes, which he cannot possibly master, let him turn his attention to the Civil Service Estimates, or to some branch of them. There he might, by severe study and practise, be a successful sportsman; but if he cover too much ground he will assuredly bring down nothing.

A CORPS OF RESERVE.

On Friday night the House was very thinly attended. There was nothing very attractive on the paper. No stirring debate was likely to come off. Reform had been postponed till after the recess. "Supply," the first order, rarely draws a House. A bankruptcy bill is repulsive rather than attractive—a feast to lawyers, but nauseous to most civilians; and so when four o'clock arrived, and Mr. Speaker had duly prayed, there were but just enough members to constitute a House, and most people thought that, when the dinner hour should arrive, it would certainly be counted out; and our readers will have noticed that three attempts were made to dismise it in this summary

way, but without success; and yet it seemed to those who looked at the House when the first count was attempted that it must succeed, for at that time there could not have been more than twenty members present. How was it, then, that the count—indeed, all the three counts, were failures? Simply, reader, because there was a corps of reserve in the dining-room; and every time the existence of the House was threatened, the corps rushed up at the sound of the bell and saved the life of the House. The fact is that the leader of the House had determined to get some business done that night, and had to this end peremptorily ordered all his men to be down early, and by no means to leave the building during the night. He himself, contrary to the custom of leaders of the House, was present at prayers, and did not go home till after midnight. Three times, as we have said, an attempt was made to put an end to the House; but every time Colonel Taylor, when the bell rang, came up with his corps of reserve, all Ministers of the Crown, and saved it. And they, with their chief, had their reward; for there was more business done that night than has been conquered on any other night this Session.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House, during a sitting of about half an hour, passed several bills a stage, and adjourned till the 17th inst.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MERCHANT SEAMEN AND GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

Mr. TREVELLYAN, on the usual motion for Supply, called attention to the case of the old seamen in the mercantile marine, who, having paid 6d. a month out of their wages to the support of Greenwich Hospital prior to the year 1834, when the payment ceased, complained that they had derived no advantage from that institution.

Mr. CHILDERS stated that a Committee of the House had reported that no case whatever existed for this appeal, and that the revenues of Greenwich Hospital were appropriated to what was considered their proper destination—namely, the maintenance of sailors of the Royal Navy and in aid of officers' pensions.

Mr. CORRY said that the sixpence a month was not paid with any benevolent intention, but as a consideration for the protection which the Navy gave to the commerce of the country.

DISTRESS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND.

Sir J. GRAY having put some questions to the Chief Secretary for Ireland relative to the distress prevailing in the West of Ireland,

Lord NAAS stated the measures which had been taken with a view to its alleviation. The House then went into Committee of Supply, and resumed the consideration of the Army Estimates.

SUPPLY.

On the vote for barrack establishments, services and supplies, Mr. Alderman Lusk took an objection to the item of £2000 for the furniture of billiard-rooms, which he moved should be struck out. The item was defended by Sir J. Pakington, Colonel North, and other members, and opposed by Sir J. Otway and Mr. Monk. On a division, the motion was rejected by 72 to 12.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. H. Edwards took the oath and his seat for Weymouth, in the room of Captain Gridley.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

The House having gone into Committee on this bill, The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he would place on the table this evening the schedule referring to the redistribution of seats. As the Committee was aware, there had been a considerable addition to the number of members placed at the disposal of the Government, namely, fifteen, which, added to the previous thirty, made in all forty-five seats. As to the mode of disposing of them, the Government would begin with London, and divide the Tower Hamlets into two boroughs, giving one part the name of Hackney, with two members. The Government also proposed that Chelsea and the adjoining locality should be created into a borough, with two members. Next they would give one member each to Hartlepool, Darlington, Middlesbrough, Burnley, St. Helens, Barnsley, Dewsbury, Staleybridge, Wednesbury, and Gravesend. These boroughs had been already included in the Government scheme. To these would be added the following new boroughs:—Stockton, Keighley, and Luton; and it was also proposed to give an additional member to Salford and Merthyr Tydfil. That would absorb nineteen seats. Acknowledging the claims of London University, one seat would be given to it; and the Committee at the proper time would be asked whether it might not be expedient to connect with it the University of Durham. This disposed of twenty seats, and the House would probably be of opinion that the remaining twenty-five seats should be appropriated to English counties. It was unnecessary for him at present to go into details on this question. What they proposed was that West Kent, North Lancashire, East Surrey, and South Lancashire should be divided and seven of the new members. This was a proposition which, so far as he could collect, would be eminently popular. They then took nine of the most considerable counties—Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Devonshire, Somersetshire, West Riding of Yorkshire, Cheshire, Norfolk, Staffordshire, and Essex—and they proposed that these great counties should be divided each into three parts, and that each part should be represented by two members. This would dispose of the forty-five seats, the distribution of which they had to consider. As to the question of boundaries, he thought large powers should be given to the Commissioners, and that the House should reserve its criticism on the subject until the report of the Commissioners was before it. He hoped, on Monday next, to lay on the table amendments to the third portion of the bill, which would define the duties and powers of the Boundary Commissioners; also well-prepared clauses on registrations which had been rendered necessary in consequence of the changes in the representation. He should have been glad to give the names of the Boundary Commissioners; but, unfortunately, a gentleman of high talents who sat opposite to him had withdrawn his name.

Mr. LAING stated his intention of moving on Monday that a third member be given to several large boroughs, and of raising the question of cumulative voting.

Colonel SKES adverted to the fact that no mention had been made of giving additional members to Scotland.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he did not think the representation of Scotland should be increased at the expense of England, which he did not consider was over-represented.

THE ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. H. BAILLIE moved for a Select Committee to consider the present state and condition of the Ordnance Department.

After some discussion,

Sir J. PAKINGTON expressed a hope that the motion would not be pressed, because he believed that the appointment of a Select Committee for the objects in view would be attended with great inconvenience at that particular period.

The motion having been withdrawn,

The House went into Committee upon the remaining Navy Estimates.

WHITSUN HOLIDAYS.—Nothing could have been more propitious than the weather on Monday for the pleasure-seekers to enjoy their annual holiday, and before seven o'clock large numbers were already astrid. The first notable move was made in the direction of the several railway stations, whence cheap excursion-trains had been advertised to run; and it is needless to say that the 3s. fare to the giant watering-place on the south coast and back proved very attractive. From London Bridge no less than four excursion-trains left for Brighton, and it is estimated that the number of passengers thus conveyed was nearly 2700. An early excursion-train also left the same terminus for Hastings, laden with passengers. Altogether, the number of cheap trains was considerably in excess of that of last year. With such brilliant weather added to the attractions of the Crystal Palace, it is not surprising that a great rush took place in the direction of Sydenham, and long before nine o'clock some thousands were proceeding across London Bridge. The trains were made up as quickly as possible, and by a quarter past twelve the twenty-first special had been dispatched to the palace from London Bridge alone. Thousands also booked from Victoria and Kensington stations, and the stations in connection with the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway. The steam-boats on the river were literally besieged. The fine-built vessels the Alexandra and Palmerston left the Swan pier densely packed for Gravesend and Sheerness; while other boats plying in the same direction were more than usually patronised, partly, perhaps, in consequence of the attractions of "a monster fete and gala" at Rosherville and at the Erith Botanical Gardens. The up-river traffic was equally great, and there can be no doubt that Battersea Park, Kew, Cremorne, &c., have been thronged with visitors. The numbers proceeding to Greenwich both by boat and rail were astonishing. Pleasure-vans were plying in various directions, and in many instances school-children were being taken to enjoy their annual treat. The gap created in London has been well filled by country visitors from various parts. Teetotal and other societies used the day as one of special festivity, and the marching out of several volunteer corps added to the animation of the public thoroughfares.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1867.

REFORMS OF THE FUTURE.

REFORMERS are a most restless race. No sooner is one subject apparently disposed of, than they cast about for new themes on which to exercise their function. Lord Derby and his colleagues must be beginning to experience a lively sense of the truth of the proverb touching the danger of letting out waters. They have just half settled the great question of reforming the House of Commons, and already two other topics are being thrust upon their notice. The newspapers are busy discussing anomalies in the constitution and shortcomings in the working of the House of Lords; and a journal—not usually the first to lead, though rarely the last to follow, public opinion in a crusade against abuses—goes the length of declaring that the House of Peers must be so reformed as to bring it into harmony with the other institutions of the country, especially in view of the changes in the other branch of the Legislature about to be effected by the Reform Bill. The Upper House, in short, according to the *Times*, must be made in reality what it is now only in name—a genuine working legislative chamber. And to do this the first step must be the abolition of the system of voting by proxy. Now, what will Lord Derby say to this proposal? Such a change would probably at once annihilate the noble Lord's ascendancy in the Upper House, for he carries in his pocket sufficient proxies to turn a division on any question of importance.

The great bulk of the peers—who, of course, have seats in the House in right of hereditary succession and not by creation—do not appear in their places, and seemingly take no interest in public affairs further than to give the Premier *carte blanche* to vote for them as he pleases. Were proxy-voting abolished, these peers would probably absent themselves still, and, of course, their support would be lost to Government in divisions. There must be a fair average amount of ability amongst the hereditary Peerage, or superior education and other advantages count for little; and yet that ability does not show itself. Has patriotic feeling declined among our nobility, or is life in their Lordships' House too slow for its young hereditary members? Whatever be the cause, there can be no dispute about the facts that large numbers of noble Lords do not attend in their places in Parliament; that they deny the country the benefit of their wisdom, whatever it may be worth; that they occupy themselves in business or pleasure elsewhere; and that they shirk their fair share of public duty, while they retain all the honours and social advantages pertaining to their order in the State. This course, which is neither fair to the community nor just to the peers themselves, would, perhaps, be of little consequence were the House of Lords to be regarded as a mere piece of machinery for registering the decisions of the Commons' Chamber. But the case becomes grave indeed if real work is to be expected from their Lordships, and if they are to exercise a positive and active influence on affairs of state. The Upper House has already lost much of its ancient power and prestige; and the inevitable consequences of continual personal abstention from its deliberations of the vast majority of its members must be to lower the House of Peers in the estimation of the country, to sink it into still greater insignificance, and to divert power more and more into the hands of the House of Commons. To our thinking, the tendency of events has already been too much in this direction, and we shall be glad to see such reforms introduced in the working of the House of Lords as shall restore its vitality and render it good for something better than mere obstruction. And the sooner the business of reform is set about the better, lest the work, like Reform in the House of Commons, be carried further at a bound than many of us are prepared to see. The House of Lords has been in the past, ought to be now, and might be in the future, a valuable and useful power in the State. But to secure this renovation the work of reform must be undertaken ere the time comes when the Upper House shall cease to have any power to control its own destinies.

The state of the Church is another theme that is beginning to bulk in men's minds. There are Commissions sitting to investigate the doctrines and formularies of worship that obtain in the Establishment. The practices and pretensions of the Ritualists, the exclusiveness of the Universities, the usefulness of the Church itself, are being freely discussed, not only without but within the walls of Parliament. The first and the most serious assault, however, will probably be made upon the Irish Church. Earl Russell is to move for a Commission to inquire into the condition and working of the Establishment in the sister country; and Government, it is said, do not intend to oppose the motion—nay, it is even asserted that they mean to issue a Commission of their own. This will in all likelihood prove the beginning of the end of the "Church of England in Ireland," for inquiry

into the working of an institution that can so ill bear investigation is all but equivalent to pronouncing its doom. The State Church is now the main if not the only grievance of which Ireland can complain, and inquiry will probably show that the only way to rectify the abuses of the Irish Church is to reform it off the face of the earth. It is possible that Bernal Osborne's prophecy, uttered in jest though it was, may yet come true, and Mr. Disraeli be destined to pass a measure for the abrogation of the Irish Church; and when that is abolished, "What next?" may well be asked in reference to the English Establishment.

There are other reforms which Mr. Disraeli may find himself constrained to carry; but one thing is certain, and that is, that he will not be allowed to rest when his Parliamentary Reform labours are concluded, but will be forced on to work which even his far-seeing mind does not contemplate. That the right hon. gentleman can look far ahead—much farther than his followers think or he allows to be supposed—we fully believe; but there may be more changes for him to effect than even his prevision embraces. If, as is not improbable, Mr. Disraeli be destined to play a still more prominent part in the history, and to exercise a still more potent influence on the destinies, of his country than he has hitherto done, it is devoutly to be hoped that the course of events will always find him equal to the occasion as contingencies arise—that he will be ready to accept the inevitable, as he has this Session been—that, in short, he will be wise, and wise in time. That the right hon. gentleman is one of the most remarkable men of the time is proved by his whole career, and especially by his management of the Reform question. It is to be desired, perhaps, that his ways of working were a little more straightforward—a little less tinged by indirection and shiftness; but these characteristics are probably as much the result of circumstances as of inclination—as much induced by the sort of materials with which he has to work, as by the natural bent of his genius. His associations are against him, and it is not always possible for even the most powerful minds to lead without in some degree seeming to humour such followers as are Mr. Disraeli's. To be successful men must sometimes be politic; and, if their policy be occasionally somewhat Machiavellian, the circumstances by which they are surrounded, and not the men, are to blame. Such is Mr. Disraeli's position. To carry his party along with him, he may be compelled to resort by turns to the arts of "persuading, drawing, cajoling, coercing," as he has done this Session. But, if the results to the general community be wholesome, we must be content to see these processes going on, though we do not approve them. If the confidence professed by Lord Derby in the working classes and in the results of the operation of the new political state of things about to be inaugurated, prove well founded, Mr. Disraeli has a splendid career before him: he will probably be the Premier of the future; and he will have great opportunities of acting for good or for evil on the affairs of his country, and, through her, on those of the world at large. Once more we say, may he have the will and the power to use those opportunities wisely and well.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, with their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein and infant son, and Princesses Louise and Beatrice and Prince Leopold, will leave Balmoral next Tuesday, the 18th inst., en route for Windsor.

THE SULTAN OF TURKEY has conferred the dignity of "Sovereign of Egypt" upon the Viceroy of Egypt.

KING VICTOR EMMANUEL is said to have lately replied to a question as to whether he was going to Paris, "Why should I go? I have not money enough to take a third-class ticket."

THE EMPERORS OF RUSSIA AND AUSTRIA are about to be invested with the Order of the Garter, and missions will be sent to Vienna and St. Petersburg for that purpose. The same honour is to be conferred upon the Sultan, who will come here to receive it in person.

LORD RONALD CHARLES GOWER, brother of the Duke of Sutherland has been returned for Sutherlandshire, in place of Sir David Dundas, who retired recently.

THE MANCHESTER COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL have decided to invite such of the European Sovereigns as may visit this country during the summer to a grand banquet in the Guildhall.

EXPLOSIONS IN ENGLISH COAL-MINES have killed 25,000 men since 1850. MR. FREDERICK VINING, the veteran actor, was the victim of a garrotte attack last week, from the effects of which he is slowly recovering.

THE LATE MR. WOOTTON, a wealthy brewer, of Oxford, has left £10,000, the interest to be divided amongst the poor of Oxford and Launton so that each recipient shall have 14s. a week.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF BEET SUGAR produced in the world is reported to be about 2,800,000 tons annually. France is the chief grower of beet sugar, and a small amount is raised in the United States.

DAILY STEAM-PACKET COMMUNICATION has been established between Littlehampton and Honfleur, and between Southampton and Havre.

GENERAL GEFFRARD, ex-President of the Republic of Hayti, has arrived in Paris. He is a tall, fine man of colour, with a white moustache.

THE REV. DR. CLAUGHTON was on Tuesday consecrated Bishop of Rochester. The ceremony was performed in the cathedral church of the diocese by the Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by several Bishops. The arrangements seem to have been perfect.

TWO OFFICERS OF THE GUARDS, Captain Archibald Kennedy and Lieutenant Henry Wigram, were fined at Dublin, last week, for wrenching off door-knockers. They were caught in the act, and taken to the lock-up, whence they were marched next morning, with thieves, &c., to the police court.

CANNING'S STATUE, so well known at Westminster, having been re-buried, has been placed on its new pedestal. Though considerably in the rear of its former position, it is not, after all, so disadvantageously placed, being in close contiguity to the new street leading from Victoria-street to the new Palace at Westminster.

THE LARGEST HARDWARE MANUFACTORY in the United States, at New Haven, gives employment to 800 hands, and turns out 4000 different kinds of articles, worth from 4,000,000 dols. to 7,000,000 dols. per year.

AMONG THE NOTABILITIES NOW AT ROME is a ritualist clergyman of the Anglican Church, who appears at the Roman Catholic ceremonies attired in the full dress of a pilgrim or hermit, and assists most devoutly at all the religious services.

THE SANDWICH ISLANDS promise to supply the Pacific coast with sugar. They are in the Pacific to America what Cuba is in the Atlantic. The number of acres planted with cane is 16,266; the capital in the business is 2,000,000 dols.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA has just given to the Emperor Napoleon the two finest of the three horses which are to be seen in the Exhibition. One is a bay stallion called Fakel, five years old, and the other Jasau, a chestnut of the same age. Both were born and reared at the Imperial breeding establishment at Khrenanoya, in Varoneje, founded by Prince Orloff Tchermensky at the end of the eighteenth century.

A SOLICITOR of high position in society, and whose father held a responsible Government situation, was convicted at Dublin, on Saturday last, of the robbery of £70 worth of jewellery from the International Hotel, Bray, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. On the expiration of that term other charges of the same kind will be brought against him.

A FELLOWSHIP of about £160 a year, tenable for five years, for the promotion of the study of logic, metaphysics, and moral philosophy, has just been founded in the University of Edinburgh under the title of the Shaw Philosophical Fellowship.

FIFTY THOUSAND PASSENGERS annually travel by sea between the Atlantic ports and San Francisco, and in a single year 27,000 teams departed from two points only on the Missouri on their westward journey.

MR. J. P. REDFERN, a sculptor who contributes to the current Royal Academy gathering, has been appointed to model eight figures, to represent the Virtues, which are intended for the Albert memorial now erecting in Hyde Park. These statues will be reproduced by the electrolyte process, and included in the canopy of the memorial.

THE PENNSYLVANIA OIL-WELLS are at their lowest ebb, and the whole product of the State is estimated at less than 6000 barrels daily. Oil stocks are also going down; and at Philadelphia the other day, 2000 shares, which once brought a premium and represented an aggregate of 50,000 dols., were sold for 10 dols.

THE GAME which is played by the street boys of London under the name of "tipcat," to the exceeding annoyance of irritable old gentlemen and the danger of everybody, is, it appears, called "piggie" in the north. A young woman at Leeds has very nearly lost her eyesight by a blow from one of these "piggies" or "cats," and the magistrates sent the boy who was the cause of it to an industrial school, ordering his father to pay half a crown a week for his maintenance.

A GRAND REVIEW OF THE BRITISH FLEET is appointed to be held on the 15th, 16th, and 17th of July. The naval force engaged will include all the available ships on the home stations, as well as the coastguard vessels and the gun-boats, and it will assemble at Spithead on the 9th. Accommodation will be specially provided for the representatives of her Majesty's Government and for the members of both Houses of Parliament to witness the imposing spectacle.

A DEPUTATION from the Working Men's Constitutional Association of Westminster waited, on Saturday last, upon the Earl of Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to present copies of resolutions, lately agreed to by the association, expressive of approval of the home and foreign policy of the present Government. The noble Premier declared his confidence in a deep-seated and wide-spread Conservative feeling amongst the working classes, who by this time had learned, he hoped, that the largest talkers are not the greatest doers. The Chancellor of the Exchequer also spoke.

THE COMMISSIONER to the Duke of Hamilton denies the truth of the statement that Mr. Naylor has purchased Hamilton House—"nor," adds Mr. Padwick, "has his Grace sustained a loss on the turf to render a sale of any portion of his property necessary."

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

YOU will not expect any political gossip this week. The gossip-mongers have been out of town, and are only now returning to business. In the absence of all gossip, perhaps you may think the following *jeu d'esprit*, handed to me by a witty friend, worth printing:—"Notice of Motion.—Mr. D. G. to ask her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it is true, as reported, that his Imperial Highness the Sultan of Turkey is to bring with him several of his wives; and, if so, whether they are to be domiciliated at Buckingham Palace; and, further, supposing this be true, whether this grave matter has been duly submitted to the Cabinet, and whether the Cabinet has formally considered the question in all its relative aspects; as to the effect which such a visit of his Imperial Highness, so attended and so domiciliated, may have upon the social and moral character and religious and political institutions of this and other countries, and whether it may not lead to serious political complication abroad; and, lastly, whether the Foreign Secretary has had any communications with his Imperial Highness through the Turkish Embassy; and, if he has, whether he will have any objection to lay those communications on the table of the House."

It is quite true, I believe, that at the last general election at Weymouth the electors, who were all thinking of reaping a glorious harvest, were disappointed by the members making a compact on the morning of the polling-day. On that morning the four candidates, Mr. Robert Brooks, Lord Grey de Wilton (the old members), Captain Gridley, and Mr. Henry Edwards, met and showed their books, and, like sensible men, determined that two should retire—the two who had the fewest promises, I suppose; and, consequently, Lord Grey de Wilton and Mr. Edwards backed out, leaving Mr. Brooks and Captain Gridley to be elected without opposition—that is, without serious opposition. The poll was opened, but, whilst Mr. Brooks polled 381 and Captain Gridley 378, Lord Grey de Wilton polled only 28 and Mr. Edwards 14. This was the arrangement, but not the whole of it, for it was finally agreed that Captain Gridley should only sit for a certain time, and that at the end of that time he should retire and make room for Edwards. The time expired a week ago, and Captain Gridley accepted the Hundreds. It is said that in future, according to a compact made by the principal men on both sides, the town is to return one and one. These gentlemen have come to this agreement on account of the almost universal bribery which has been practised for many years at Weymouth. Ought not Parliament to inquire into this? My decided opinion is that to disfranchise Yarmouth and not to disfranchise such a nest of bribery as Weymouth is not to do justice. Weymouth has a population over 10,000, and will continue to return two members. It may interest some of your readers to know that the Select Committee of the House of Commons to whom has been referred the bills for extending the Factory Acts to other trades meets for the transaction of preliminary business on Monday next.

The agricultural mind is a queer affair. There is no getting light in upon it; and it is utterly incapable of logic. Everybody knows that the children of English agricultural labourers get very little education. They are generally brought up in almost perfect ignorance of the "three R's": they know little of either reading, 'riting, nor 'rithmetic; and their masters, the farmers, see no use in teaching them more, and for very good reasons. If labourers could read, of course they would learn that there are other places in the world besides the parishes in which they were born and the farms on which they have laboured their lives long; and that they need not starve at home when plenty of well-paid work is to be had for the seeking elsewhere. If they could write, perhaps they would be apt to inform each other where bad wages are paid and where better ones may be had. And if they could work sums in arithmetic, they might discover that a man, his wife, and children, cannot well be fed, clothed, lodged, and taught on nine shillings a week. A little of these things they are beginning to know, and further instruction would teach them more. Hence why farmers dislike education. Hence, too, why the good clergyman in the west of England was mobbed in his vestry-room lately because he had been caught "setting little boys copies." Hence, likewise, why the sage gentleman at an agricultural meeting, the other day, denounced education because it had made the labourers "worse than they were before;" though it is difficult to understand how that can well be, seeing that our peasants have got little or no education at all. Perhaps, if farmers would try a little more education—real education, I mean, not a mere pretence of it—coupled with kindly, liberal, and just treatment, they might get a better race of labourers. Why, my boocle friends, what can you expect for 9s. a week? A fair day's wage—which your profits make you well able to pay—given to a man when he is capable of working and appreciating the boon, would have more effect than admission to the workhouse, or the gift of a blue frieze coat and a sovereign when he is past all exertion, and has lost all spirit and self-respect. Scotch farm labourers generally get some education when young, and I never heard that they made worse workers through life for it. Try the experiment in England, and see whether it will not answer better than your present system of keeping your labourers in a state of boorish ignorance—a system which, even by your own confession, has failed. If the peasant could live comfortably by his labour, he would be under less temptation to poach, and would not be so likely to steal your turnips and potatoes to eke out his miserable fare, or to flich your hurdles and hedgestakes to make a fire to warm himself withal. Moreover, if a trifle more intelligent, he would take greater interest in his work, and perform it with more spirit and less indifferent perfunctoriness.

Messrs. Martyn and Morgan have just published two very beautiful photographs of "Mr. George Belmore and the Flying Scud," as they have nightly, for months past, appeared at the Holborn Theatre. These photographs are admirably executed, and depict the popular actor and his no less popular steed in the exact manner they lived—on the boards of the theatre. The pictures will be a welcome memento to those who have had the pleasure of witnessing the "Flying Scud," certainly one of the most successful dramas of the day. If I were disposed to be hypercritical, I might take exception to the horse, which is altogether, to my thinking, too heavy to be the flyer he was supposed to prove himself on the stage; but this is the fault, not of the artists, but of the model. It was not to be expected, however, that a Gladiator, a Lord Lyon, or a Hermit could be got to do duty on the mimic turf in Holborn. Still, "Flying Scud," though heavy, looks a horse of powerful bone and muscle, and likely to prove a good "stayer," which, being interpreted, means that he would not stay at all—in the rear, that is.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Of the same class are *Temple Bar*, *Belgravia*, and the new-comer, the *London*. *Belgravia*, as we all know, is distinguished by its numerous illustrations, and I think by a greater number of pages than the other shilling magazines. All three are alike in one particular—they scarcely contain a line which makes you pause, or which you care to remember. But, apropos of the *London*, the leading story of which I said the other day I had not yet looked at, it is pleasant to be able to add that I have now looked at "Roger's Wrong," and find it good. It is full of animal spirits and touches true to nature, and the general conception (which is obvious to a practised reader) is capital. I have no doubt whatever that we shall hear more of the author as a novelist.

The *Fortnightly* is a livelier number than we have had for some time. Anybody who will compare the first of the short reviews in this number with the majority of the notices that have appeared elsewhere of the same book will observe afresh—it is nothing new to observe!—what a difference candour and breadth of view make in the way in which reviewers of ostensibly equal rank deal even with a book in the treatment of which it is easy to be fair. Mr. Molesworth continues the "History of the Reform Question," bringing it down to last year; and I suppose he means to make a little volume out of his articles as soon as the present bill is got through both Houses. I think such a book would sell. The sensation article of the number is by Professor Tyndall, on "Miracles and Special Providences," the text being Mr. Mozley's Bampton Lectures for 1865. On the "quantitative" question, I think Mr. Tyndall has the best of it; and, all the way through, how almost provokingly cool he is! You cannot feel the irony; perhaps, he would say he meant none; but you apprehend it remotely, like the taste of a steel blade, which makes you fancy you feel the sharp edge ever so little. The most attractive paper to our old friend the general reader will be that on *Plautus*, "the Roman Molière," by Mr. W. R. S. Ralston, a felicitous article, none the less pleasant and effective that it is so unostentatious, and so honest in consulting the reader's needs by giving him frank extracts instead of showing off the author's "parts of speech" by what is called "elaborate criticism of the text," or "minutely descriptive word-painting." It is the habit of certain eloquent reviewers to stick into the middle of their criticisms good solid blocks of their author's writing very slightly modified. This trick is particularly common in reviews of books of history and books of travel. Mr. Ralston could hardly have played it with *Plautus*; but he might have spouted about him instead of letting him speak for himself, as he has judiciously done. Mr. Freeman, on the "Relations between the Crowns of England and Scotland," must not pass unnoticed. Mr. Meredith's "Sonnet" cannot be without interest, because it is Mr. Meredith's; but, until we know to whom it is addressed, we read it as we read a "Simp" or "No Doormat" advertisement in the *Times*.

Concerning the article entitled "My Escape from Hydropathy," which I noticed last week, in *London Society*, I have received a letter from a correspondent in the country, barely in time to read it before this column goes to press; but I will answer it next week. Meanwhile, perhaps, the writer, who appears to be "another sufferer," will accept my sincere sympathy.

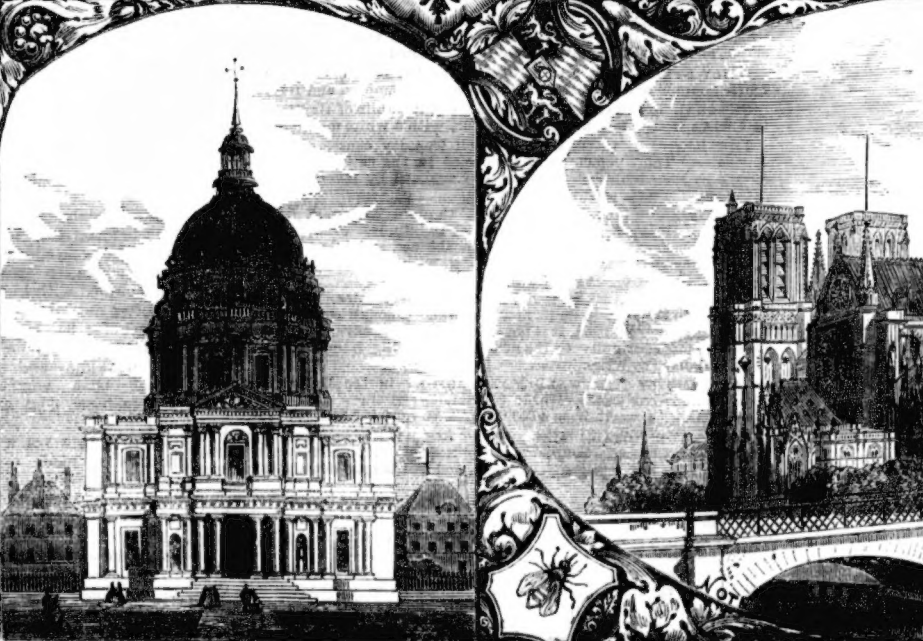
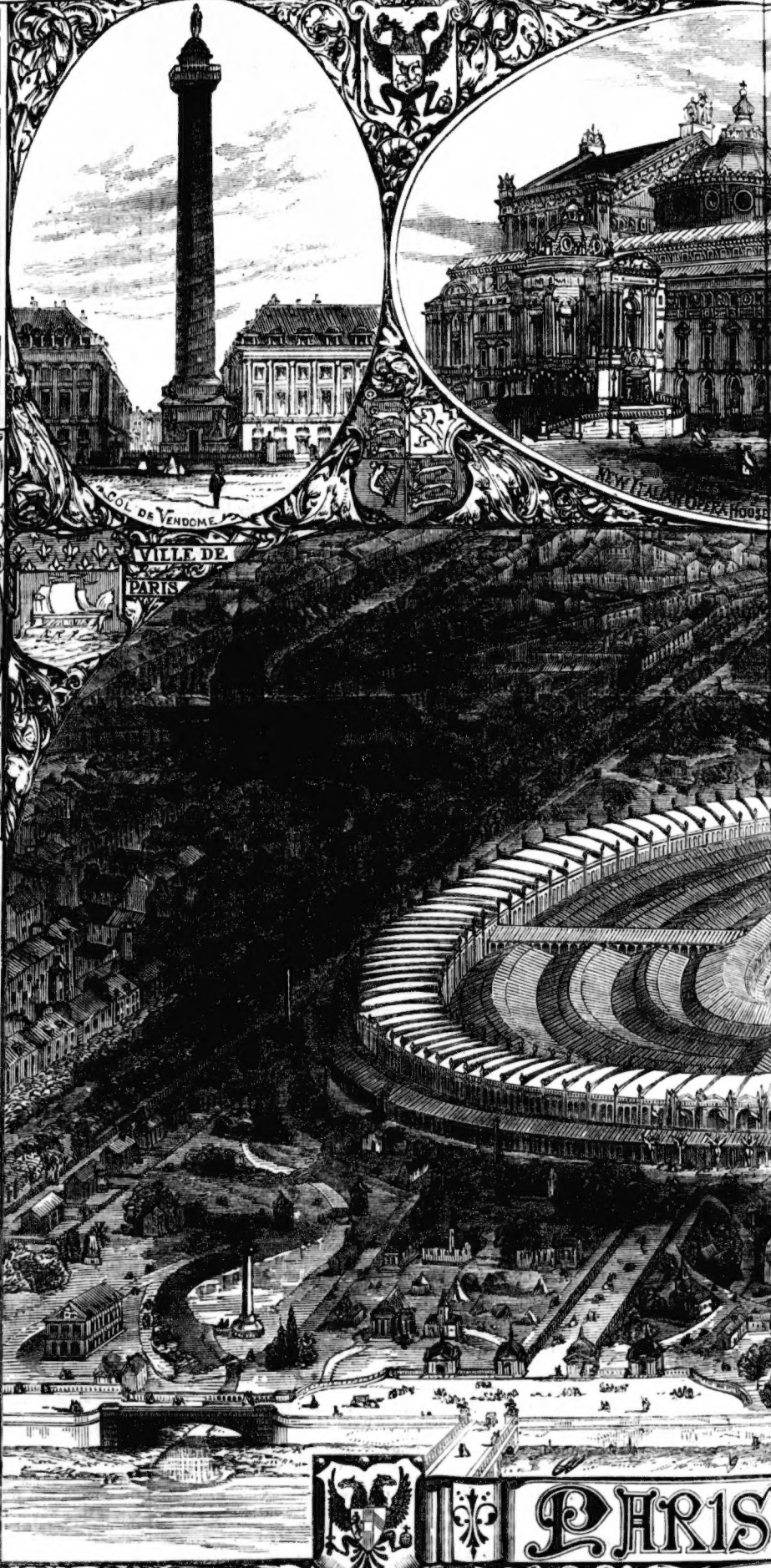
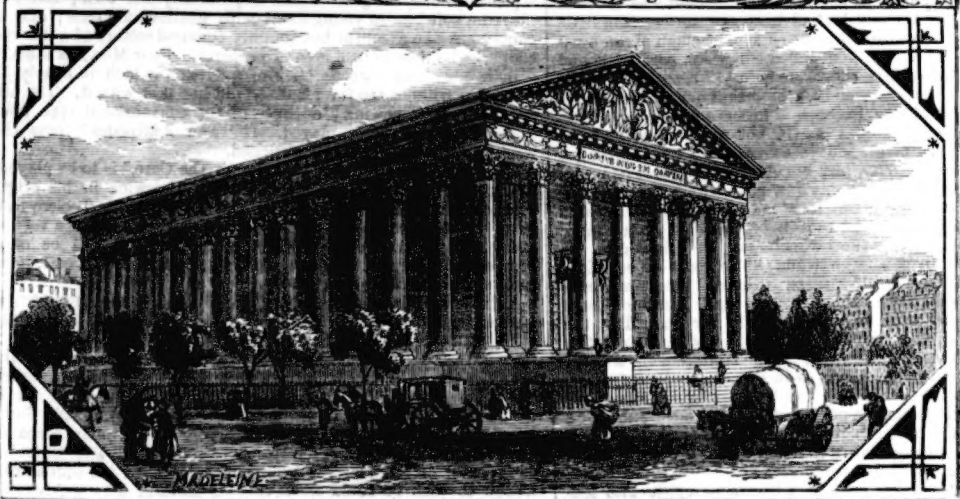
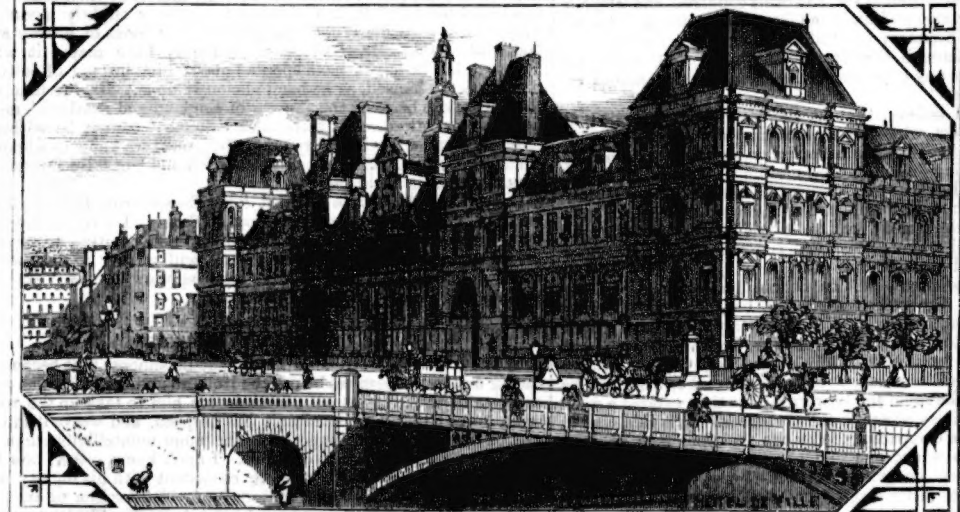
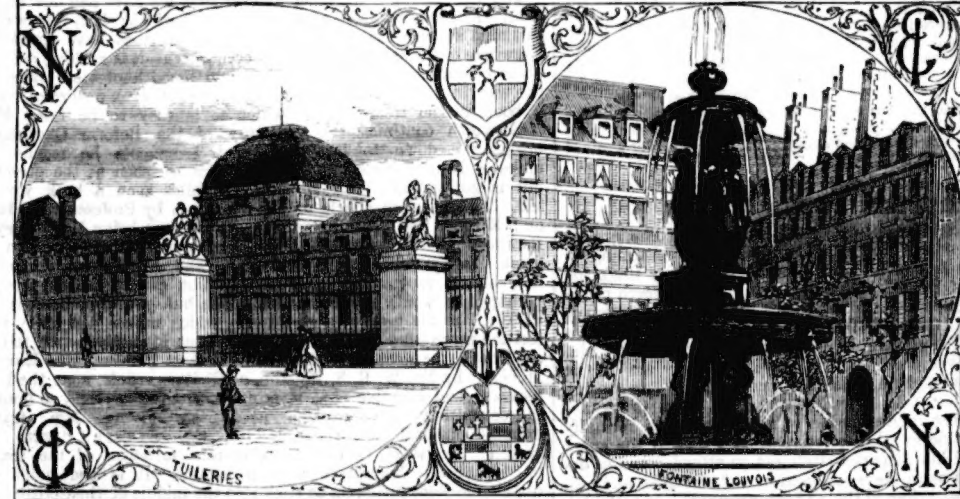
THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

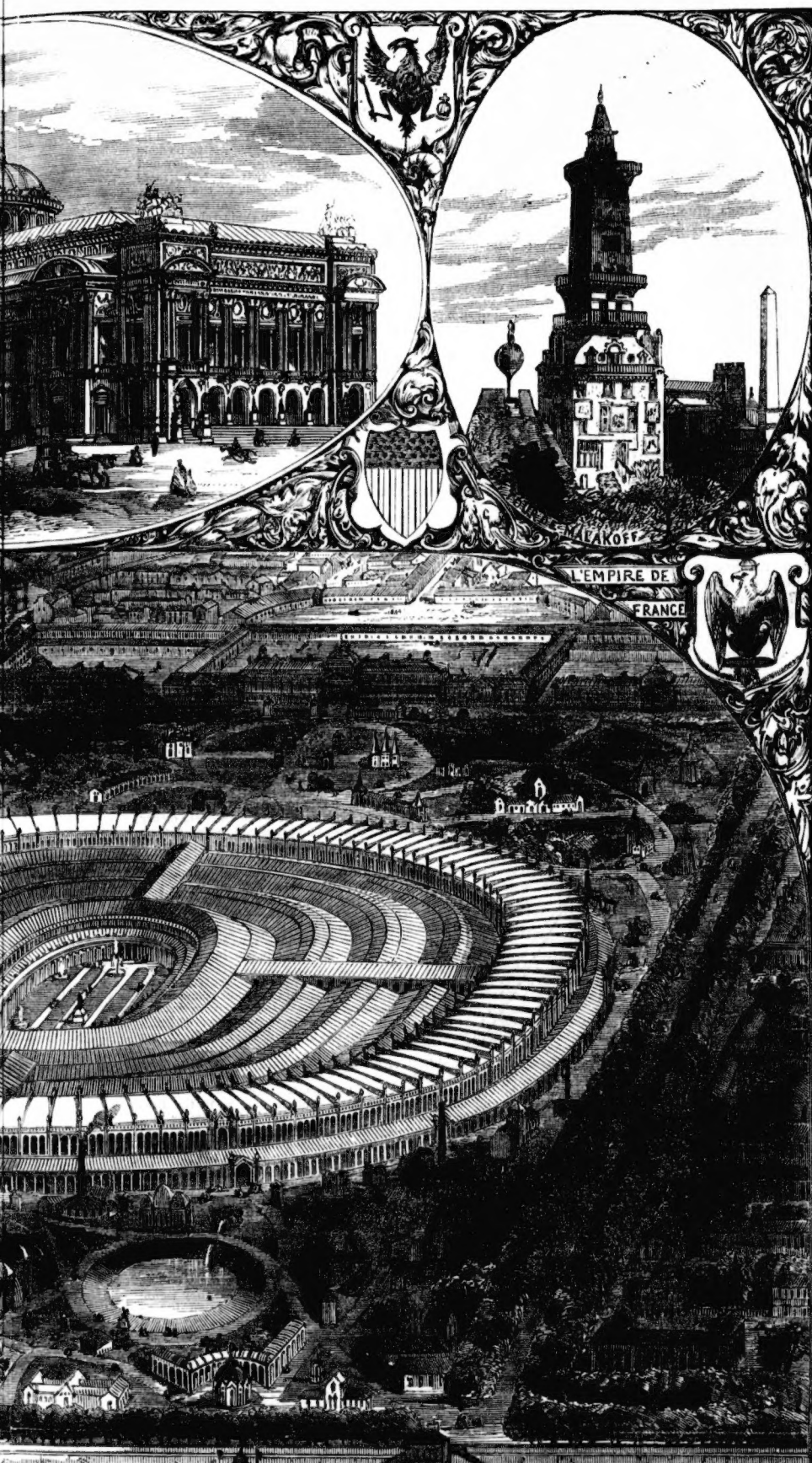
Why in the world Mr. Tom Taylor should suppose that because a racing drama has been set before the Holborn audiences for nine consecutive months, it is at all advisable for him to take up the well-worn thread that Mr. Boucicault has dropped, and weave it into a second story, even more improbable and more unintelligible than its prototype, I am at a loss to conceive. I don't know, either, how far Mr. Tom Taylor considers it to be consistent with his dignity and literary position to work with materials provided for him by another author. These are matters which I must leave Mr. Taylor to settle for and with himself. "The Antipodes," produced last week at the HOLBORN, commences with "Flying Scud" and its *dramatis personæ*, under different names—the swindlers, blacklegs, grooms, weak swells, and hounded Derby favourites—and ends with "It Is Never Too Late to Mend," with its reformed blackguard, foolish detective, real water, and sensation nugget. All the characters in the first act go, of their own independent volition, to Australia; and not only to Australia, but to the very same spot of that extensive island. More than this, it occurs to all of them, independently, to go at the same moment, and at the same moment they seem to arrive. In the second act, the hounded horse, which promised to be an important feature of the piece, is lost sight of altogether, and is no more heard of; and the whole interest of the piece runs into a different channel—life in the bush in 1852, and the fortunate discovery of "miles of gold" by an amateur digger. The third act is devoted to penitent "legs," pistol-shots, real water, and a free pardon by the Governor of Australia, who turns up, with his family, in "Dead Man's Gully" in the bush, just at the proper moment. He gives his daughter to the amateur digger, and very properly sends the detective (a simple donkey, who came out to Australia to take up a man for trying to hocus a horse!) back to Scotland-yard. The piece is utterly foolish from beginning to end; and, if it were Mr. Tom Taylor's first play, it would settle for ever his claims to the title of a dramatic author. It is as fairly played as could reasonably be expected. Miss Terry plays the heroine with a pleasant, buoyant grace which is peculiarly her own; Mr. Price played a soft-headed young swell with gentlemanly ease; and Mr. Emery gave an excellent but roughly-coloured picture of a low race-cadger, who rises to be a man of property. Poor Miss Saunders has a detestably bad part as Miskin, a groom, which is simply Bob Buckskin without the fun; but she did her best with it. The other characters were shadowy outlines of the conventional type, and in every case were fairly played. If "The Antipodes" runs three weeks I shall be very much surprised.

The prize Surrey drama, "True to the Core," is to be played at the PRINCESS'S on Saturday, with Mr. Creswick in his original character, and Miss Nellie Moore and Miss Carlotta Leclercq in the parts of the heroine and the picturesque gipsy. It is a very excellent play; and, placed upon the stage as it will be at the Princess's, and with the above valuable addition to the cast, it will no doubt prove very attractive.

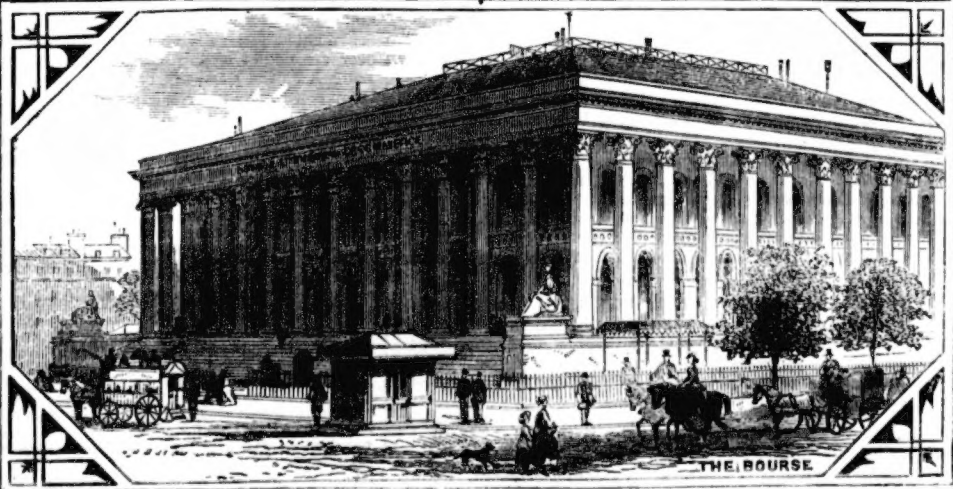
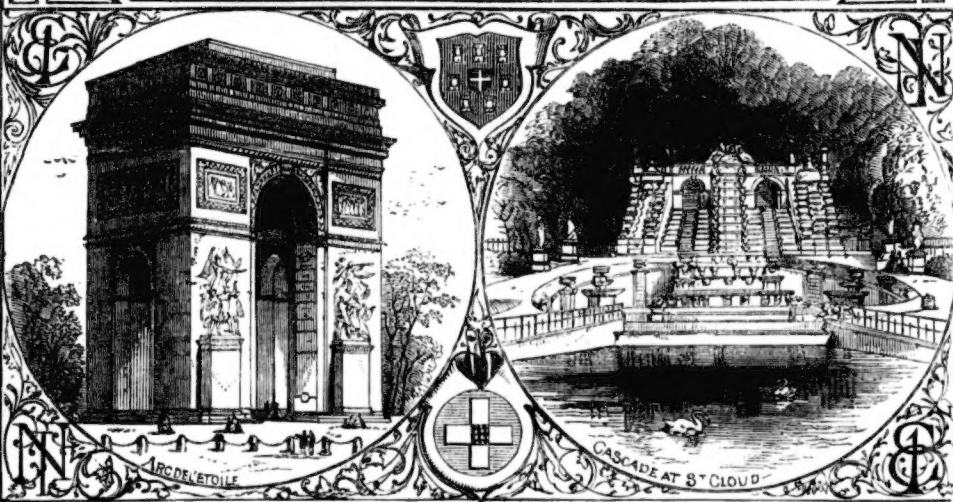
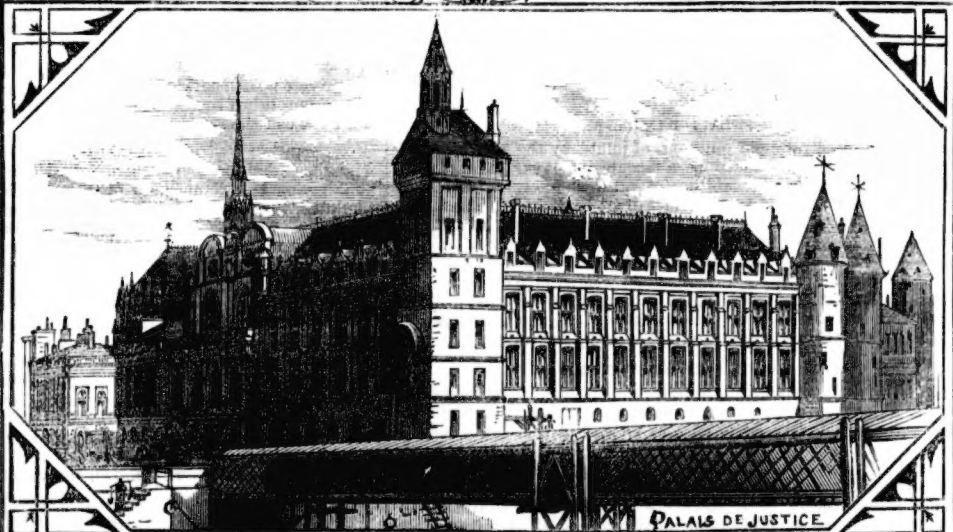
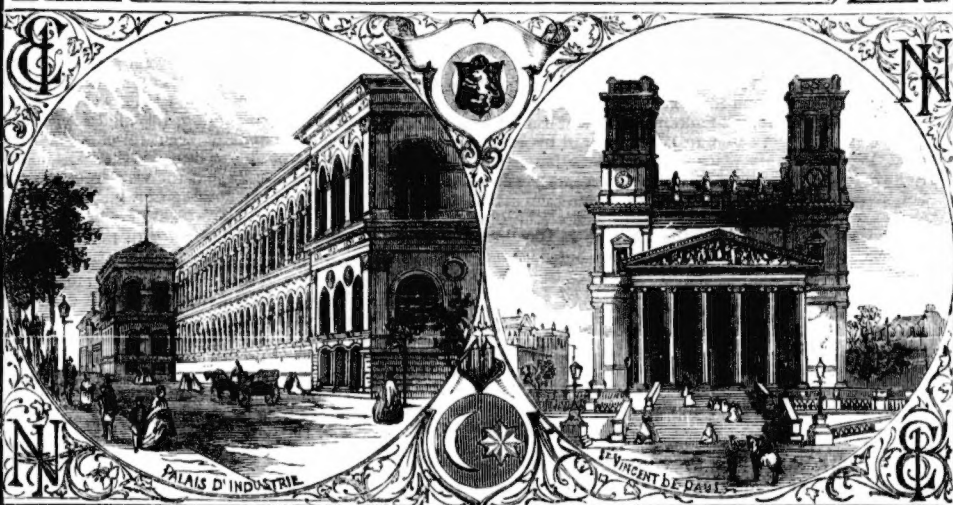
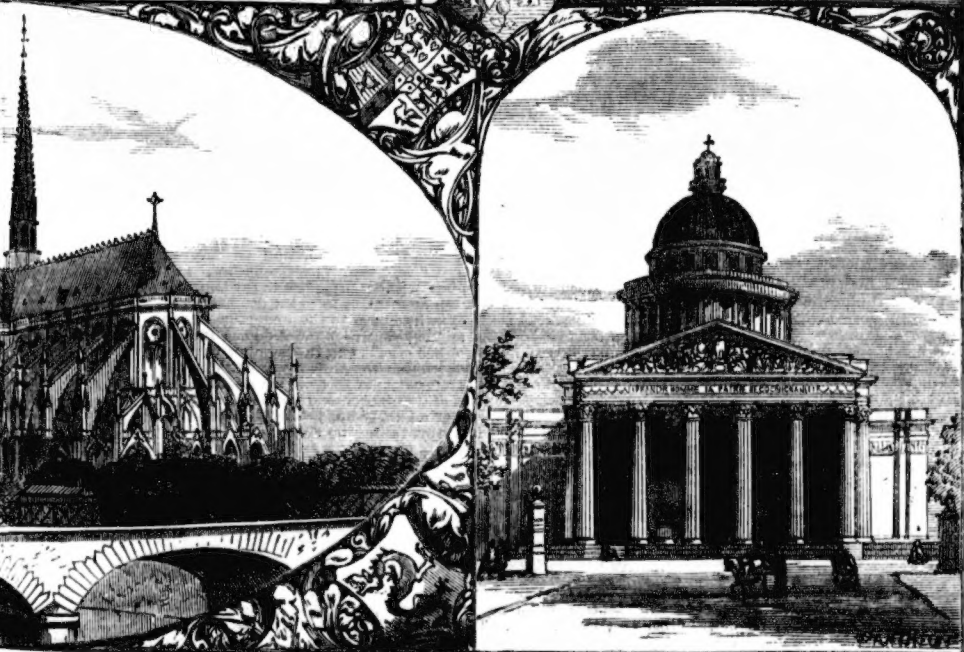
A farce by Mr. M. Morton is "underlined" at the ADELPHI, and another by Mr. F. Hay, called "Our Domestic," will be produced at the STRAND to-night (Saturday).

On Saturday (to-night) Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews take their benefit, with as strong a bill as they could well have composed. "The Liar" and "Patter v. Clatter" involve hard work for Mr. Mathews; but when "The Critic" and "Woodcock's Little Game" are superadded to these, his work becomes absolutely herculean. These pieces contain four, or rather five (for in "The Critic" he plays two), of Mr. Mathews' best characters. I am unreasonable enough to wish he could have thrown Lavater into the bargain; but where Mr. Mathews is concerned I am a glutton.





IN 1867



PARIS AND ITS BUILDINGS

Now that all the world is finding its way to Paris, and especially as arrangements have been made for conveying large detachments of workmen to visit the French capital, it will be interesting to many of our readers to refer to some of the principal objects which make that splendid city one of the finest and most attractive in the world. To middle-aged people, who only remember the Paris of their youth, when the Porte San Denis existed and the old narrow cobbled causeways were often spanned by a rope on which swung some remaining specimen of the ancient *lanterne*; when the Isle of Paris was little altered in appearance from the time of the great Revolution, and the Morgue was a dreadful spectacle, where one came face to face with death without the intervention of glass; when there were few riders in the Bois de Boulogne, and cricket was an unknown game; when the Halles, with their old queer archways and stalls, were unaltered, and the New Opera House had not even been dreamed of; when, in fact, a student could live handsomely in Lutetia for two francs a day; and when a lodging for three, consisting of a noble tiled-floor *salle*, with a cabinet at each end for sleeping apartments, could be obtained for three francs a night, even at a respectable hotel. To those who remember these things Paris of to-day will be a little strange; for M. Hausmann has arisen since their youth, and the capital of France has become a city of marble palaces; broad boulevards have taken the place of the queer old picturesque streets, and the ancient buildings alone survive as landmarks for quarters which have been rebuilt. It is not merely to the great International Exhibition of 1867 that visitors go. Paris itself is a great international exhibition, and each of its public buildings is an historical monument. Of the great building for the products of all nations we have already given such descriptions as will serve to indicate its plan and point out the situation of its various sections, and we take the present opportunity of mentioning some of the other objects of interest to which the attention of visitors should be especially directed.

THE PLACE DE LA CONCORDE

is perhaps the greatest attraction, as it is the recognised trysting place of English tourists. It is certainly one of the most beautiful public squares in Europe, and was first called the Place Louis Quinze, having been formed to commemorate the general peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, in 1748, and adorned with a statue of Louis XV., in 1763, which was afterwards, in 1792, replaced by a plaster cast of Liberty. It was at this place that the revolution of 1789 may be said to have broken out, and it afterwards became the scene of some of the most awful and sanguinary events in that terrible drama. The guillotine was erected where the obelisk now stands, and the square became the Place de la Revolution. Here the victims of the revolution were executed, and here its leaders were afterwards consigned by each other to the same terrible doom. In 1800, when the traces of the blood shed there had begun to disappear, the place received its present name; and in 1840 it had assumed its present appearance, connecting the gardens of the Tuileries with the Champs Elysées, with its magnificent view of the Palace of the Tuileries, the Arc de Triomphe, the Madeleine, and the Chamber of Deputies. The place is encircled by eight fountains, supporting figures typical of the chief cities of the empire. The great obelisk of Luxor occupies the centre, on each side of which is a grand fountain.

THE CHURCH OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

is one of the most remarkable buildings in Paris, although it is quite modern, having been erected between 1824 and 1844. It is situated in the Place Lafayette, near the Northern Railway station, and is thus a prominent object to tourists on their arrival. It is in the basilica form, and the interior is very rich in decoration with fine frescoes by Flandrin and Picot. This superb church cost £156,000, and its terraces £96,000.

THE PALAIS D'INDUSTRIE

has at present its "nose put quite out of joint" by the International Exhibition, but it was founded, as a recognition of the advantage of a permanent industrial exhibition of art manufactures and products, after the success of our own first great Exhibition. The building, which is at Auteuil, occupies the space once covered by a Royal hunting-lodge, and afterwards by the magnificent conservatories of Richelieu. The chief entrance, facing the new boulevard, is richly adorned with sculpture and ornamented with groups of figures on pedestals, the principal one being 15 ft. high, while the great grille of metal work and the stained glass decoration are fine introductions to the display which it is intended shall occupy the interior.

THE PALAIS DE JUSTICE

is one of the most interesting buildings in France, associated as it is with its entire history; for it would appear that from the very earliest times a palace occupied this spot, and that the Kings of France occasionally lived there down to the end of the fourteenth century. It was, as all readers of "Quentin Durward" will remember, the favourite residence of Louis XI., and though its architecture is necessarily of a strangely miscellaneous character in consequence of the additions and improvements of ages (the most ancient part of the building dating from the fourteenth century), there is a distinctive character about its various portions which cannot fail to suggest strange reflections to the intelligent visitor. The wonderful old Sainte-Chapelle, the Salle des Par Perdus, which replaced an old hall burned in 1618, the broad range of steps leading to the central terrace, and the great vaulted salle just mentioned; the turrets, the conciergerie, where the guillotine carts waited every morning for their doomed freight; the sacristy, once the dungeon where Marie Antoinette was confined, to be followed by Danton, Hébert, and Robespierre, all are full of strange interest though the neighbourhood of the palace has entirely altered in its character.

ST. CLOUD

will, of course, be visited by the tourists who desire to see the great legendary fountains and cascades; and it must be seen on a Sunday or a fête-day to be thoroughly appreciated. The same remark will apply to Versailles and its great system of waterworks.

THE ARC DE L'ETOILE

may be said to represent the glories of the Champs Elysées—that paradise of *bonnes* and children, idlers, lovers, and worn-out veterans. The ground on which the arch stands was once higher, but was made into a gentle slope in order to afford a more perfect view of the Tuileries. The Arc de l'Etoile was commenced by Napoleon I. in 1806, but the works being often interrupted, it was not completed till 1836, at an expense of above £400,000. The central arch (90 ft. by 45 ft.) is said to be the largest in the world, that of Augustus at Rimini coming next. The piers of the arch facing the Champs Elysées are adorned with two alto-reliefs—one by Rude, representing "The Departure of 1792," and the other, by Cortot, "The Triumph of 1810." The reliefs on the other side represent the resistance to the Allies in 1814 and the peace of the following year. A fine view of Paris may be obtained from the summit of the arch.

THE BOURSE,

which represents the French Stock Exchange, is always an object of interest, not only because it is a magnificent building, but in consequence of the exciting scene which it displays during the hours of business, when almost every class of French society, from the ancient nobility to the ordinary Parisian mechanic, is represented amongst the speculators.

THE NEW OPERA HOUSE,

in the Boulevard des Capucines, has already been described in these columns as one of the most splendid theatres in Europe. The regular staff of this vast establishment numbers 642 persons, besides the outdoor servants of the theatre; the salaries amount to £66,000 a year, and the Government subvention is £25,000.

THE COLUMN OF THE PLACE VENDOME.

The visitor who, after loitering in the superb thoroughfare of the Rue de Rivoli, opposite the Tuileries, turns into the Rue St. Honoré,

will probably find himself in the Place Vendôme, which lies on the left of the latter street, and is interesting from having been begun by Louis XIV., and finished by Law, the originator of the great Mississippi bubble scheme. The Column of Vendôme occupies the centre, and is an imitation of the Trajan Pillar at Rome, and was erected by the First Napoleon to commemorate his German victories, which are represented in the bas-reliefs. The pedestal and shaft are of stone, encased in bronze made from Austrian and Prussian cannon. The height of the column is 135 ft.; and the spiral scroll contains 2000 figures, each about 3 ft. high.

THE PANTHEON

has undergone some strange vicissitudes illustrative of the revolutions which have so changed the constitution of the French capital. It was begun in 1751, in order to replace the old Church of St. Genevieve; but the Constituent Assembly afterwards named it a Temple, dedicated to human genius. Then its pedestal was inscribed "Aux grands hommes, la patrie reconnaissante." In 1822 it was restored to the service of the Church; once more declined into a sort of mock pagan temple in 1830; and was again restored by the present Emperor, when he was President, in 1851. This strange, cruciform building, with its magnificent peristyle and its vast and lofty dome, is well calculated, from its severity of style, to prepare the visitor for the reflections which he cannot but entertain as he gazes at the tombs in the crypt and remembers that the men represented there made the history of France, and almost that of Europe, for a whole generation.

NOTRE DAME

is no less suggestive, and possesses, besides the attraction of antiquity and association with the great French romance, the story which is to French literature what the mediæval romances of Scott have been to that of England. One almost forgets in the recollections of Quasimodo and Esmeralda that this great cathedral is of older date, occupying the site of an old Merovingian basilica, which had itself supplanted a pagan temple. In 1163 the first stone was laid; in 1419 it was not quite completed; and a century ago it was barbarously transfigured; but modern restorations have to some extent redeemed it from these alterations. Almost every phase of Gothic architecture is represented in this vast pile, with its grand rose windows, its superb altar, its bronzes, marbles, wood-carving, its gilded metal-work, and its series of simple, but grandly beautiful chapels. The staircase to the lofty tower might almost be called the "lost footsteps," for they are very difficult to ascend, but the view from the top is worth any trouble to attain, to say nothing of a glimpse of the *Bourdon* (the largest bell in France), the weight of which is over 10 tons.

THE INVALIDES,

a hospital for disabled soldiers, is as interesting as our own Chelsea Hospital, and as a building is far more imposing. It was founded in 1760 by the Grand Monarch. A spacious esplanade, on which is ranged cannons and mortars taken in war, leads from the Seine to the gates of the Hotel, the frontage of which is 612 ft. in length, and adorned profusely with military emblems. In the kitchens 6000 rations can be cooked daily, and there are four dining-rooms, each 150 ft. long and 24 ft. broad, decorated with battle pictures and portraits of famous warriors. Between 3000 and 4000 invalides now occupy this vast building.

THE PALACE OF THE LOUVRE

may be said to be the history of France in brick and stone. Its origin is forgotten or unknown, but it was a Royal hunting-seat of the Merovingian Kings, when it was surrounded by a vast forest, the wolves of which are supposed to have given it its name. The museum and magnificent gallery is sure to be visited by the crowd of pleasure-seekers in Paris; but during the presence of the Emperor the private apartments cannot, of course, be seen. Napoleon III. has accomplished the intention of the First Emperor, by connecting the Palace of the Louvre with that of

THE TUILERIES,

which was designed by Catherine de Medicis to be its great rival, and, having been commenced on the spot formerly devoted to the tile-kilns, took that plebeian name and afterwards ennobled it. The prediction of an astrologer that St. Germain would be fatal to her, induced Catherine to abandon the design of completing this palace, for St. Germain was the name of the parish in which it stood. Henry IV., Louis XIII., and Louis XIV. all had a hand in its completion; but it was rarely inhabited as a Royal residence till Louis XVI. was compelled by the people to occupy it instead of remaining at Versailles. It was here that the Swiss guard fought so furiously, and here that the Convention and the Committee of Public Safety held their sittings. Ever since the time of the First Empire it has remained the seat of Government. In the Place de Carrousel, a fine square near the Tuileries, 400 ft. in width, is the triumphal arch erected by Napoleon I., in 1806, to the glory of the French armies.

THE HOTEL DE VILLE

has just become the centre of magnificence in Paris, in consequence of the superb company which assembled there to welcome the Russian Emperor and his sons. It is, perhaps, the only building where such a vast concourse of guests could have been entertained; and M. Hausmann is, perhaps, the only man in France who could have so adapted the place as to give it an altogether new and beautiful character. Not that the Hôtel de Ville is a small building; for it is four times the size of the original structure. It consists of a rectangle, with a pavilion at each corner, and two more in the east and west fronts. The halls of reception are on the first floor, next the quai and the square, and consist of the Throne-room, the Hall of Arcades, the Hall of the Emperor, the Yellow and the Blue Saloons, the Hall of the Caryatides, the Hall of Peace, and the Grand Ball-room—a superb apartment, on the glories of which the newspapers have lately been sufficiently eloquent. Amongst the great buildings, one of the most conspicuous is

THE MADELEINE,

with which we conclude our present series. It is placed in a fine situation, where the Boulevard Madeleine and the Boulevard Malesherbes join the Rue Royale, and one of the most characteristic views in Paris may be obtained from its broad flight of steps. The Madeleine is simply a copy of a Greek temple, and in no way resembles a church, since it is modelled from the Parthenon, which it considerably surpasses in point of size. The roof rests upon double rows of columns, each 49 ft. high. The alto-relievo of the pediment is by Lemaire, and portrays the Last Judgment; the whole entablature and ceiling are also richly sculptured, and statues of the national saints of France adorn the niches along the wall. The bronze gates, by Triqueti, are very fine; and the interior, which is lighted by three cupolas, is magnificently ornamented, especially about the high altar. The paintings, however, are not of a very high character. Founded as a church, by Louis XV., the Madeleine became a Temple of Fame by a decree of Napoleon I., and the soldiers were ordered to assemble there to celebrate the victories of Austerlitz and Jena with odes and orations. Louis Philippe, however, finally restored it to its sacred office, and it is still one of the grandest and most attractive buildings in Paris.

THE RIGHT OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO VOTE.—In a letter to a Liverpool gentleman on this subject, Mr. John Bright says:—"I cannot pledge myself as to the course I shall take in the House, but I am disposed to think that the votes of officers of the Customs department should be allowed, or the exclusion should be carried into other departments to which it has not yet been applied."

STORY OF A DIAMOND BRACELET.—Several months ago, a diamond bracelet, valued at over £150, was lost at Richmond by Lady Parker, and, although search was made and handsome rewards were offered, no clue could be obtained, and her Ladyship gave it up as lost to her for certain. Last week her Ladyship received an anonymous letter, stating that a parcel awaited her at a certain tradesman's, that it bore the direction given in the letter, and that she must apply in person for it. Lady Parker's curiosity was aroused, and she visited the tradesman's shop in question, where the parcel as described had been for several days. The parcel was claimed and conveyed home, and Lady Parker's astonishment may be imagined when on opening it she discovered her long-lost diamond bracelet intact. No elucidation can be given to the mystery.

THE COMPOUND RATING DIFFICULTY.

A DEPUTATION of vestry clerks, representatives of the committee appointed by the various metropolitan parishes to consider and report what means can be adopted to avert the impending loss of parochial rates through the passing of Mr. Hodgkinson's amendment to the Reform Bill, had a conference, by previous appointment, with Mr. Gladstone, at his private residence, in Carlton-house-terrace, on Monday afternoon. The members of the deputation were:—Mr. Greenwell (Marylebone), Mr. Mitchell (Whitechapel), Mr. Layton (Islington), Mr. Hopwood (Holborn), and Mr. Southwell (Mile-end Old Town).

Mr. Greenwell, in addressing Mr. Gladstone, stated that the passing of Mr. Hodgkinson's amendment would cause the loss of an enormous amount of rates to the parish. That amendment was supported both by Mr. Gladstone and the Government; and, as the injury which would be inflicted upon the parishes came principally from that side of the House of which he was the leader, they had come to consult him as to what was to be done under the circumstances. As the measure was a Government one, they had consulted the Poor-Law Board, that board being the guardians of the rates of the metropolis, and unconnected with the political aspect of the matter. The subject had been inquired into at various times by Committees of the House and the Poor-Law Commissioners; and they, by their reports, condemned the system of rating the occupier, as leading to great loss of rates without any counter-balancing advantage being obtained. The Small Tenements Act did not apply to places where there were local Acts, and therefore had nothing to do with the metropolis, where local Acts were in force. The object of these Acts was stated in the preambles. Their desire was by some means to continue to rate the owners instead of the occupiers; and they had agreed upon a proposition which would meet their views, but perhaps it would not meet political exigencies.

Mr. Gladstone said, for his own part, he thought it was perfect folly to make this bill interfere in any way with any arrangements of the parishes about the rates. If Parliament had taken care that the rates were paid he could have understood it, but he could not understand the interference with the convenience of the public. He wished to say that one party in the House had no views on the subject, and was not responsible in any degree for this interference. He had deprecated it all along, and had assented to it, as he would assent to the cutting off his leg rather than lose his life. The majority of the House had, however, agreed to it, and the question was, could a proposal be made to meet the views of the majority and at the same time meet the difficulty?

Mr. Greenwell said what would suit them was that the rating of the owner should be extended to cases where houses were let furnished or for a less term than one year, or where the annual rent did not exceed £20. They did not wish to suggest anything that would retard the passing of a bill, or continue an agitation which inflicted a serious loss upon the trade and commerce of the metropolis.

Mr. Gladstone said he had proposed his mode, and it had been rejected. He proposed that a man should have a vote whether his landlord or himself were rated. The House rejected that by a majority of twenty-one. His object was to avoid interfering in any way with the collection of the rates. There was no doubt that a great deal of the composition arose out of the weekly tenancies, and it was perfectly absurd to propose to ask a man who had a seven days' holding under his landlord to pay a six months' rate, so as to place him in relation to the parish for six months, while he only had a holding for a week. He did not think he could postpone the subject, for that would interfere with the political object of the House. There had been a great deal of idle talk and jeering about the compound household, as if he were a chimpanzee or an orang-outang; whereas three-fourths of the population were holding houses under £10. Therefore, the legislation upon this point was the Reform Bill. The real Reform Bill was not settled by any measure or motion until the passing of Mr. Hodgkinson's amendment. The House meant that the name of the occupier should be on the rate-book, and that he should be under full legal liability for the payment of the rates. Was it or was it not compatible with these two purposes of the House of Commons that they should make arrangements with the owners, either voluntarily or by enactment, which would enable you practically to collect the rates from the owner. There is no doubt that it is almost a social necessity that they should do so.

Mr. Greenwell said they might put both the owner and the occupier on the rate book, making both liable; but the objection to that on the part of the landlord was that he would have to pay the rate for his tenant when that tenant, perhaps, ran away without paying his rent.

Mr. Gladstone said that what he meant was that they might make such an arrangement, by making an allowance to the landlord, as still to collect the rates from him. Without any allowance being made the landlord pays the rates in a large number of parishes, especially in Liverpool. These places are not under the Compounding Act or the Small Tenements Act, and yet the rates are obtained from the owner. Why should they not remunerate the owner and employ him as the collector?

Mr. Greenwell objected to this suggestion that, if the occupier were legally responsible, the landlord would leave him to the mercy of the bailiff, and not pay the rate.

Mr. Southwell also objected that, if a tenant had paid his rent up, they could only distrain for an amount equal to one week's rent—say 5s.

Mr. Gladstone said that under the Small Tenements Act they could distrain for the whole amount. The common-sense of the case is, in the first place, to consider whether you can make some arrangement by law or not, without coming across the arrangement of the House of Commons—the entering the name on the rate-book. There seems to be a notion in the House that there is some sort of security for a man's virtue in his liability for a rate. The benefit offered to the landlord was what has been very neatly termed a "profitable contract." In a large number of instances already the landlord voluntarily undertakes the payment of the rates, as in Liverpool, without any allowance. A man wishing to become a weekly tenant would look out for a place where he had only to pay his week's rent. They wanted to avoid three things—the trouble of obtaining information, the danger of dealing with uncertain tenants, and the trouble of collection. If they gained their object, why should they not pay the landlord for it? He could collect the rates easily, because he must collect his rent. He was convinced that before five years had passed they would return to the present system. We are not such idiots as to incur inconvenience for nothing at all; at present it would be much better to ask Parliament for power to make a voluntary rather than a compulsory arrangement.

The conference continued for a considerable period longer, the deputation urging in objection to Mr. Gladstone's proposal that great difficulty would arise in settling the rate of remuneration to the landlords, as some would require more than others, and that the question of security where the arrangement was not compulsory would create a difficulty.

Mr. Gladstone replied that when once a voluntary arrangement had been made the security would be as good as at present, and in conclusion he said, "Any proposal for relieving the parishes of this difficulty shall, for my part, have every prejudice in its favour. I cannot speak more strongly than that."

THREE TURKISH PAPERS, *Muhbir*, *Vatan*, and *Osmaniyet*, published at Constantinople, have been suppressed by order of the Porte.

THE BREADALBANE SUCCESSION.—On Saturday last the first division of the Court of Session was occupied with hearing counsel in the petition of Donald Campbell in reference to the Breadalbane succession. The petitioner, who must not be confounded with the competitors in the case now waiting judgment in the House of Lords, claims a prior title not only to both these claimants, but even to the late Marquis and his father. His case has been some time before the Court of Chancery, and only reaches the Scottish Court at present on an incidental point. The petitioner craved an order from the Court of Session for the examination of the trustees of the late Marquis of Breadalbane, and for the production by them of a number of documents said to be in the charter-room of Taymouth Castle, all of which were enumerated in a *subpoena duces tecum*, issued under the seal of the High Court of Chancery on behalf of the petitioner. When the petition was formerly before the Court of Session it was stated by the counsel for the Earl of Breadalbane that an application was to be made by him to the Court of Chancery to set aside the subpoena. This application was accordingly made; and the Vice-Chancellor, by an order dated May 27, restrained the petitioner from taking any proceedings before the Court of Session or otherwise for enforcing the subpoena. The petitioner appealed against this order to the Lords Justices of Appeal, and on May 31 their Lordships discharged the order of the Vice-Chancellor, and refused the motion made before him, but without prejudice to the Court of Session making any order which it might think fit as to the attendance of any person for the purpose of being examined or as to the production of any writings or other documents. The application was founded on the statute for perpetuating evidence in danger of being lost; and the Solicitor-General (Mr. Millar), for the petitioner, contended that the present was a fit case for the application of that statute, as the documents in question might, after the decision of the competitive claims of Glenfalloch and Boreland, fall into other hands than the present trustees, or might be lost before the petitioner, who was a second son (the elder brother taking no steps), could be in a position to claim as heir. The evidence of the trustees and other persons in reference to these documents might also be lost before he could become a claimant. Mr. Young, for the Earl of Breadalbane (Glenfalloch), opposed the application, on the ground that the documents were in no danger whatever of being lost, and that the statute which was meant to perpetuate oral testimony had no application to the case. This was really an application not to perpetuate evidence, but to make a search for it, and was brought in a manner wholly irregular and premature. Lord Ardmillan said the object seemed to be to know what documents were in danger of being lost. The Lord President said the Court would take till Tuesday to consider the form of the order, but there could not be the slightest doubt as to the substance of the order they would make. The whole indications of opinion given by the Judges in the discussion were adverse to the petition.

FINE ARTS.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

(CONCLUDING NOTICE.)

THE South Room has a better show of water-colour drawings than usual this year. As the Academy is at present constituted, it would be absurd to hope that any liberal or spirited measures for the furtherance of the interests of art will be carried out, or we should urge the necessity of giving more space and doing more honour to this essentially national art. In oil painting we are avowedly far outstripped by the Continental schools: in water colour we may fairly claim the first place in the world; but our national Academy can only devote to the art in which England excels a corner among miniatures, crayon drawings, and architectural designs. This is the more to be regretted because the Old and New Water-Colour Societies are close boroughs, and the Dudley a commercial speculation, enabling the committee to deal profitably in the works it exhibits. When we consider how the art flourishes in this cold shade, we can readily imagine how it would prosper in the sunshine of academical favour.

Mr. Brett proves himself as great a master of this method as of oils. His "Through the Turnips" (748) is brimming with the truths of nature. "Covert" (738) is another remarkable work, displaying that happy combination of patient industry and comprehensive genius which is, perhaps, the secret of the charm that Mr. Brett exercises over us. Mr. W. P. Burton is nobly represented by a "Barley-field-Sunset" (753), full of poetry and reality; and by "Sunset after Rain" (768), a still cleverer work, realising a peculiar effect with the felicity which always distinguishes Mr. Burton's pencil.

"Moonlight on the Sea at Ecclesbourne" (730) is another added to the many reproductions—too many, perhaps, for his reputation—which Mr. A. Gilbert has given us of similar effects. The "Ruins of the Temple of Hercules, Capo di Sorrento," (716), by Mr. White, is a clever picture, with evidence of careful study on the spot. "Moonrise on the Thames" (750), by Mr. Holloway, is a telling work; and Mr. E. Hull's "Old Trees at West Wickham, Kent," is a genuine bit of nature, painted with appreciation as well as skill. Mr. Goodwin paints "Aspen Trees" (763) with great effect, and displays a considerable amount of facility and power in his view "On the Arun" (741). "The Tricolor in Venice in 1866" (728), by Mr. W. C. Stockdale, has a somewhat sensational title, which is scarcely borne out by a glimpse of the red-white-and-green flag in one corner of a picture occupied by sunlit palaces and monuments. The painting is sound and clever, and the colour brilliant and well harmonised. Mr. Glennie's "On the Marshes, Greenhithe, Kent" (784) is a work of very great merit. Mr. W. F. Stocks gives us a very clever "Midnight," and Mr. Rosseiter a bright and pleasing "Girle and Grimuffin" (705); while Miss Louise Rayner sustains her well-earned reputation by her admirable treatment of "An Ancient Close, Canongate, Edinburgh" (694). Mrs. C. Rosseiter displays a charming feeling for colour and a most creditable knowledge of the technicalities in her still-life study, "Bullfinch, Brambling, Goldfinch, and Siskin" (721).

It is a pity, where space was so limited, that any of it should have been thrown away upon such things as Mr. Clifford is mistaken enough to exhibit. "Twilight" (756) and "Jean" (719) are meaningless in expression and dirty in colour. More sombre and soulless samples of the Burne-Jones school in its lowest development it has not been our fortune to see. "As the Crow Flies" (754), by Mr. J. K. Thomson; "A Sketch from Nature" (757), by Mr. Groom; and "Eli Purser" (758), by Mr. Stocks, are all deserving of mention, the latter especially, as the work of one whose hand more often wields the burin than the brush. Mr. Ward's "Summer" (759) is better than anything he has had on the Academy walls for years. Pure and bright in colour and simple in treatment, this little study of a head would incline us to think Mr. Ward has mistaken his vocation, and that he would succeed better in small water-colour prettinesses in the style of Mr. Bouvier than in the large historical style he essays so unsuccessfully.

"Lion-hunting" (837), by Mr. T. Landseer, will interest all who know how admirably the veteran engraver works on the steel, and are glad to meet him in a new field. "The Scanty Meal" (710), by Mr. Perry, and "Changing the Pasture" (724), by Mr. Birtles, are both good pictures by young artists who are steadily but surely working into recognition as portrayers of animal life.

Among the portraits in crayon the most noticeable is a portrait of "The Author of 'Adam Bede'" (735). It is a picture that at once arrests the attention—a face which combines with an almost masculine force of intellect all the tenderness and refinement of the woman. Mr. F. W. Burton's name is ample guarantee that the portrait is faithful and unfettered; but without that assurance the work carries with it all the evidences of truthfulness and fidelity.

Contrasting most unfavourably with this masterly drawing, is Mr. Tild's portrait of her Majesty, painted for Mr. Peabody by command. Photography, which, if it err at all, does not err on the side of flattery, should long since have convinced Court painters that gross flattery is no compliment to Royalty, since it deceives no one who has ever glanced at an album of cartes de visite, and only makes the painter—to say no more—ridiculous.

Among the architectural drawings are two which the public will look for with interest, and regard with anything but satisfaction. Mr. Barry's design for "The New National Gallery" (897) is a conspicuous failure. To describe it in a manner which will be more intelligible to the general reader than any lengthened array of technical terms—it looks very like "St. Paul's broken loose." But its unsightliness is, if possible, eclipsed by the "Exterior View of the Hall of Arts and Sciences, about to be erected on the estate of her Majesty's Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851" (905). It is described as "based on ideas originated by the late Captain Fowke, and designed by Mr. Scott (not Mr. Gilbert Scott, but an engineer officer), assisted by Mr. R. Townroe." Should the design be carried out, the building will be a standing national disgrace—more hideous because more pretentious than the notorious Exhibition shed of 1862. We can compare it to nothing but an unwieldy fish-kettle with a glass lid.

The Octagon Room contains engravings and etchings. The chief things of note there are Mr. Hamerton's etchings, a "Cornish Seiner" (970) etched by Mr. Slocombe, and a fine drawing on wood by Mr. Sandys—"Danae" (984), engraved by Mr. Swain.

The sculpture cellars present the usual array of vacant busts and meaningless nudities and semi-nudities. The most conspicuous failure, perhaps, is Mr. Woolner's bust of "The Rev. J. H. Newman" (1035). A sculptor seldom has the good fortune to have to reproduce a head so excellently adapted for treatment by his art, and we are surprised that one so much belauded as Mr. Woolner should have so utterly missed his opportunity. Mr. Adams has succeeded infinitely better with "Lord Brougham" (1059). Mr. Woolner's "Tennyson" (1091) is better than the beardless fancy portrait of the poet, which he gave us some years since, but is damaged by a feeble affectation of strength of treatment.

Mr. Burnard's posthumous bust of "Thackeray" (1163) is clever and well executed, but strikes us as wanting in some of those characteristic points which it is almost inevitable that posthumous portraits should miss. Mr. Noble's "Garibaldi" (1138) is lifelike and truthful. Mr. Durham's "Good Night!" (999) is pretty, but lacks finish. Mr. Marshall's "Tryst at the Fountain" (1002) wants originality terribly; the poet is very familiar.

Our last visit to the Academy confirms the verdict we recorded in an early notice. There are not so many "sensational" pictures this year, but the general average of merit is higher than it has been for several previous seasons. Mr. Leighton's "Venus," Mr. Poynter's "Israel in Egypt," Mr. Walker's "Bathers," and Mr. Brett's "Sea" are pictures that will long keep a place green in our memories for the Royal Academy Exhibition of 1867.

MILNE, HISTORIEN now living in Paris, having returned from America, where she realised no less than £40,000 clear money.

Literature.

The Story of the Diamond Necklace, told in detail for the first time, chiefly by the aid of Original Letters, Official and other Documents, and Contemporary Memoirs, recently made public; and comprising a Sketch of the Life of the Countess de la Motte, with Incidental Memoirs and Specimens of the Forged Correspondence with Marie Antoinette. By HENRY VIZETELLY. Illustrated with an Exact Representation of the Diamond Necklace, and a Portrait of the Countess de la Motte, engraved on steel. In two volumes. London: Tinsley Brothers.

"August 26, 1791. Died, at her lodgings, near Astley's Riding School, Lambeth, the noted Countess de la Motte, of 'Necklace' memory, who lately jumped out of a two-pair of stairs window, to avoid the bailiffs." This extract from a newspaper of the time briefly hints the wretched end of Jeanne de Saint-Remi de Luz, belonging, by illegitimate descent, to the ancient house of Valois; and as it is a sentence likely to catch the eye and stimulate the curiosity of the unfamiliar reader, we place it at the head of what must, from want of space, be a very inadequate notice of one of the most interesting books of the year. The number of those who are totally ignorant of the story of the Diamond Necklace must, of course, be very few; but comparatively limited also must be the number of readers who, after having been fascinated, as every reader inevitably is, by what is picturesque and dramatic in the narrative, have allowed all that to sink to the bottom and then applied themselves judiciously to the facts of the case, unweighed by feeling and uncoloured by fancy. Mr. Henry Vizetelly has brought quite forensic acuteness to bear upon the story in which the Countess de la Motte played the leading part, with Queen Marie-Antoinette and the Cardinal Prince de Rohan for her chief victims, and a motley group of black sheep and soiled doves for her instruments. The concluding chapter of the second volume, in which Mr. Vizetelly sums up the evidence against Marie-Antoinette, tears it to tatters, and then (to imitate his own colloquial freedom of style) makes mincemeat of M. Louis Blanc, is masterly; and, if it were not that the author's quickness of vision for a picturesque detail marks him out for a chronicler, we should say that his acuteness in cross-examining facts sets him apart for a nisi-prisus or criminal lawyer. His worst fault lies in a cumulative or an agglomerative way of piling up or constructing sentences which was more common two or three centuries ago than it is now. This is only a fault of redundancy of detail; the author has so much to say that, though he says nothing strictly irrelevant, one sometimes wonders whether the degree of relevancy justifies the appearance of a given detail in a given place. But Mr. Vizetelly has succeeded in telling with clearness, precision, completeness, and dramatic effect a long, complicated, and ticklish story. Merely as a picture of the times—the canvas crowded with figures in perfect costume, the background and accessories vividly and carefully sketched—his book is a valuable one. In whatever school, or for the purposes of whatever profession, Mr. Vizetelly acquired his power of grouping, its effect, applied to the purposes of a task which has evidently fascinated his mind, is one of "curious felicity" for the reader, who inevitably carries away connected series of strong and satisfying impressions. So little is he left to his own reflections during the progress of the drama that it is only upon consideration that he discovers what a set of gallows-birds, adventures, and camp-followers of a petty war of fortune he has been keeping company with.

The reader's imagination is greatly assisted by a likeness, after Robinet, of the Countess de la Motte prefixed to the first volume. A more odious countenance it is scarcely possible to conceive—it is at once vulgar, insolent, pertinacious, and cowardly; for the courage (if that word must be used) of this miserable woman was not that of a person who calmly saw and confronted danger, but that of a person who had an insolent confidence in herself, and that stupid inapprehensiveness which often accompanies cunning. But she suffered at the climax of her career an ignominious public punishment, and died so horrible a death that, though she scarcely inspires pity, one does not like to write harsh words of her. The drawing of the Diamond Necklace itself, prefixed to the second volume, is of course not so interesting as a glass imitation of it would have been; but a glass imitation could only have been attached to the interesting volumes for which we have to thank Mr. Vizetelly in a small case or basket—making, say, a dummy volume by itself! We may just add that, besides the interest, the book contains some amusement proper—sometimes in the grim Flemish humour of the author, sometimes in the vulgarities, mock heroics, and absurdities of the Countess herself. In her account of the Salpêtrière she compares the inmates to tigers, because they had "always in their hands either stones, bottles, or chairs ready to throw at the head of anyone that displeased them." Her indignation at being served with dinner "on pewter" in prison is downright farce. One word more. The author makes no special attempt to paint Cagliostro as he really was; but there is no source known to us from which so good an idea of that quack may be rapidly and easily gathered. The rapid incidental sketch has a more satisfying effect than many an elaborate full-length.

Church Embroidery, Ancient and Modern. Practically Illustrated. By ANASTASIA DOLBY, late Embroidress to the Queen. London: Chapman and Hall.

It is impossible to say what may not happen to Mrs. Dolby if this pretty needle-book should fall into the hands of Mr. Whalley, M.P. Even a tolerably sane "Ritualist" might lose his head at some of the pretty decorations here so lovingly described, and breathing of work and the workshop from the time of good Saint Margaret to that of graceful Mme. Elise. In the range of our own austere Protestant experience, we have sometimes thought that just a little colour and adornment to the parish church might not be unpleasant to the eye—which will rove, and certainly should not be attracted, moth-like, to Angelina's new bonnet. It is dull, certainly; those white-washed walls, slate-coloured charity girls, and sprinkled, sheep-covered hymn-books. At such places all the embroidery goes to the dear Curate—in the form of slippers and braces, and the Church does not get so much as window-curtains. But that may be better than what Mrs. Dolby sets before us—for instance, super-frontals, ornamental crosses for ditto, monograms, powderings, pulpit and desk hangings, sermon cases, band cases, book covers and markers, alms bags, and alms-dish mats, altar cloths, and pouncing patterns, appliqué work, &c. It is all very pretty, and well calculated to upset young ladies' minds—in which case young gentlemen's minds may be expected to follow.

No man without wife or sister, of whom to take counsel, should wander into this "Church Embroidery" book. The needle is a mystery, and the explanations offered are mysteries to all but the somewhat initiated. It is a handsome book; and, for all practical purposes, might go hand-in-hand with modern heraldry.

Mr. Wynyard's Ward. By HOLME LEE, Author of "Sylvan Holt's Daughter," &c. 2 vols. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

Scarcely ranking among the best of Holme Lee's stories, "Mr. Wynyard's Ward" will yet command countless delighted readers. There are many little separate episodes and stories of a happy or unhappy turn, but the chief interest centres in the love of Penelope Croft for a wealthy Mr. Tindal, upon whom the suspicion of fratricide rests. He has been acquitted; but the majority of the country society agree to treat him very distantly. Penelope Croft is also wealthy, and these two "properties," as they may be called, fall wildly in love, to the great disgust of everybody else. It will not be running the reader's interest to say at once that they marry, and that Mr. Tindal is proved innocent beyond all question. In the mean time Penelope has been entirely ruined by a fraudulent agent; but that does not matter in the least, since Tindal has plenty for two, and he gets an opportunity of showing off his devotion. There is a very fair mixture of society, in which some lofty characters figure to good advantage; but the general opinion will be

that the country people are infinitely better. The lords and ladies, and their society, are as insipid on paper as they affect to be to the outer world, and it is only an eccentric that has a chance of making a lasting impression. Moreover, if that lasting impression happen to be made, the polite world is certain to look upon it as a malicious indignity. But country people can be made characters without giving offence, and Holme Lee has the trick of this in perfection. Without running through the dramatic personæ, it is enough to say that in "Mr. Wynyard's Ward" there are at least a dozen provincial people who are at once original and pleasant, and in no case do they degenerate into the dreary, overdone nuisances that our modern novelists are too fond of describing. Various scenes and observations of country life will be found most delightful reading, and especially to Londoners, who must be prepared to undergo a good amount of envy after reading about the sports and pastimes, rustic picnics and rustic balls described here—so different from the staid gravity of Belgravia and the growing importance of Westbourne. These two volumes—observe, it is a short story—will be welcome in every house where the reading is not strictly confined to "important works of the season," which, as a rule, are formidable instruments of torture for the immature mind.

DUTY OF VOLUNTEERS IN TIMES OF RIOT.

THE following memorandum, "in regard to the employment of volunteers in aid of the civil power," has been issued from the War Office:—

MEMORANDUM.

1. Questions having arisen as to the power of the civil authority to call upon the volunteer force to act in aid of the civil power in suppression of riot or public commotion, and doubts having been expressed as to the duty of the members of the volunteer force, if so called upon, the following circular is issued for the general information of the volunteer force, in accordance with the opinion of the law officers of the Crown.
2. Her Majesty's subjects are bound, in case of the existence of riots, to use all reasonable endeavours, according to the necessity of the occasion, to suppress and quell such riots; and members of the volunteer force are not exempted from this general obligation.
3. The civil authority is not in any case entitled to call upon or order volunteers to act as a military body, with or without arms, in the preservation of the peace.
4. Members of the volunteer force may, in common with all her Majesty's subjects, be called upon and required by the civil authority to act as special constables for the purpose of suppressing and quelling riots.
5. In cases of riots and disturbances not amounting to insurrection, and not having for their object the commission of felonious acts or the subversion of the civil government, special constables, whether volunteer or others, should not be armed with or use any weapon other than the ordinary constable's staff; and in such cases no volunteer should, when acting as a special constable, appear in his military dress.
6. In cases of serious and dangerous riots and disturbances—for instance, in case of insurrection, or of riots having for their object the commission of felonious acts or the subversion of the civil government—the civil authority may call upon and require her Majesty's subjects generally, including volunteers, to arm themselves with and use such other weapons of defence or attack as may be in their power and may be suitable for the occasion, and such other weapons may be used accordingly, by her Majesty's subjects, including volunteers, according to the necessity of the occasion.
7. Firearms should be the last weapon so to be called into action, and should be resorted to only in cases when without their use it would be practically impossible to quell the disturbance.
8. All her Majesty's subjects, including volunteers, in acting either as special constables or otherwise, for suppressing and quelling riots, are entitled to use and put in action such knowledge and practice of military discipline and organisation as they may possess for the purpose of making their combined strength and the use of such weapons as the occasion may justify more effectual.
9. Her Majesty's subjects, including volunteers, in cases in which it is proper for them to act for the suppression of riots, should act, if it be practicable, under the direction of the civil authority; but they will not be released from the obligation to use their reasonable endeavours for the suppression of riots and disturbances according to the necessities of the occasion, if magistrates should not be present or not within reach of immediate communication when any such occasion arises.
10. In the event of an attack upon their storehouses or armouries, members of the volunteer force may combine and avail themselves of their military discipline to repel such attack, and to defend such storehouses and armouries, and for such purposes may, if the necessity of the occasion require it, use arms.

THE SEARCH FOR DR. LIVINGSTONE.—On Sunday the expedition which is to penetrate the interior of Africa, to investigate the truth of the report of the death of Dr. Livingstone, set sail from England. It consisted of only four persons—Mr. E. D. Young, who has been entrusted with the command; Mr. Henry Faulkner, and two experienced men named John Reed and John Buckley, one a mechanic, who travelled with Dr. Livingstone for two years and a half in Zambesi; and the other a seaman, acclimatised on the east coast of Africa, and thoroughly acquainted with the nature of the country and with the manners and habits of the native population. Mr. Young was also a companion of Dr. Livingstone on some of his former eventful journeys, and is therefore well qualified for the adventurous task which he has undertaken. Mr. Faulkner accompanies the expedition at his own request and expense.

THE REFORM LEAGUE AND THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE.—The council of the Reform League have issued an address entitled "A Voice from the Reform League of England to the Peoples of Europe," in which, after alluding to the value of scientific discoveries in bringing all nations closer together, they are told that war is "the mad and wicked game played by emperors and kings with the lives and wealth of the people." They are counselled to refuse to supply the men and means for carrying on wars, and urged to promote the employment of law and arbitration for the settlement of national disputes. The victories gained hitherto by the league in the Reform cause are adverted to as triumphs of moral force, and the question is asked, "Why this force should not be employed in every land for the development of what is right and just, the abatement of misrule, the removal of abuses and of barriers to advancement." The address is signed by the president of the league, and the secretary has been ordered to transmit copies to the various organised bodies of working men in every country in Europe.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. ERNEST HART.—The services of Mr. Ernest Hart in obtaining a partial reform of the London workhouse infirmaries were eminently worthy of public recognition and public gratitude. As the originator, and a most active member of the well-remembered "Lancet Commission," he was a valued and efficient colleague of those "sensational writers," who ultimately succeeded in shaming the Poor-Law Board into a mild attempt to repress evils which had long shocked the conscience and humanity of the unofficial public. Mr. Hart, with a disinterestedness equal to his energy, declines to receive any kind of testimonial which would be of pecuniary value to himself; and it has therefore been resolved, by a most influential committee, that the funds to be subscribed as an acknowledgment of his services shall be devoted to establishing a handsome prize for the best report or essay connected with the treatment of the sick poor, or with some cognate subject. The Archbishop of York, Lord Grosvenor, Lord Carnarvon, and other well-known names, stand in the list of the committee side by side with those of many eminent medical and surgical authorities. It is seldom that a testimonial can be so heartily commended; the public, whatever officials may think or say, being distinctly in the debt of Mr. Ernest Hart for his zealous and successful labours. The names of subscribers should be sent to the hon. secretary, Mr. W. H. Ashurst, of 7, Prince of Wales-terrace, Kensington.

MR. DISRAELI IN TRIUMPH.—Visitors to the Royal Academy Exhibition this year will remember the striking picture of "Israel in Egypt," by Mr. Poynter, in which, with remarkable power, are represented hundreds of hard-driven slaves, harnessed like beasts of burden, straining their scorched limbs and writhing under the lash of the taskmaster as they drag a ponderous granite lion across the desert to the Egyptian temple. The power with which the figures are drawn, the variety of attitude, the truth and force with which all are represented, the pain expressed with a cry in the suffering of one; the silent, dogged revenge nursed in the strong frame of another; and the general sway of movement and action in the row of figures make up a whole of extraordinary and very striking effect. This work has been turned to account most cleverly in *Punch* this week by Mr. Tenniel. In a cartoon filling the whole of the centre pages, Mr. Disraeli is depicted as the Spaniard being dragged in triumph to the Temple of Reform by a lengthy team of leading political men of all parties, who are tagging, with willing hands or under fear of the whip, the ponderous machine to the place of honour. Lord Stanley and Sir Stafford Northcote are harnessed nearest to the ear, pulling with determined will Sir John Pakington, Mr. John Stuart Mill, Mr. Bright, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. T. Hughes, Mr. Roebuck, Earl Grosvenor, and Mr. Horsman are detected at once in the sweltering line. The Earl of Derby, as the driver, with a cloth round his loins, has partly risen from his seat, and is smacking his whip to the full tether of the throng. Two figures which are especially happy are those of Mr. Lowe and Lord Cranbourne. Mr. Lowe, in the centre of the slaves, has turned round, and with a heavy scowl of anger on his features, is raising his clenched fist in the Earl of Derby's view. Following the painting, Lord Cranbourne has fallen out of place, and is lying, with a wearied and beaten expression on the sand; while the *Standard*, as Mrs. Gamp, is kindly endeavouring with her gin-bottle to restore and console him.



THE CZAREWICH.

THE GRAND DUKE VLADIMIR.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA AND HIS TWO SONS, ALEXANDER AND VLADIMIR.

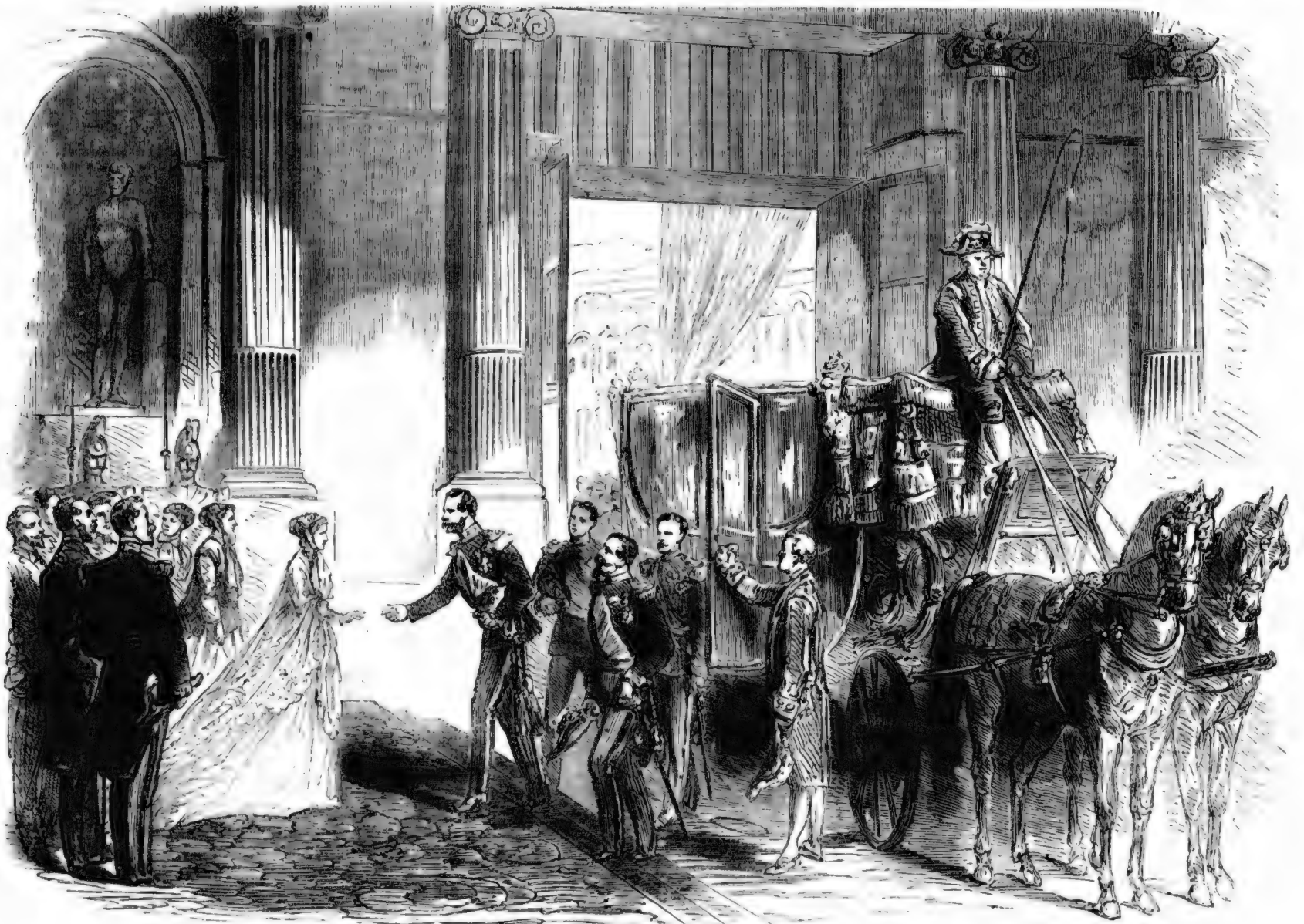
THE CZAR IN PARIS.

THE brilliant official reception which was accorded to the Czar and his sons on their arrival in Paris was threatened with a subsequent failure of popular welcome in consequence of the effervescence of French sympathy with the cause of Poland. Wherever the Emperor Alexander appeared in public, both half-stifed and audibly-shouted cries of "Vive Pologne!" with mutterings not loud but deep, accosted him. Not even the Imperial police can muzzle all Paris; and students, barristers, and others of the "intelligent classes," were amongst the sympathisers as well as the workmen and the canaille. Some of the workmen, indeed, refused to leave their labour to swell the crowd, or to take any part in the seeming welcome of the Oppressor of Poland. Thus the reception was cold, formal, and official; and no enthusiasm would have been displayed but for the mistaken and utterly detestable act of a young Pole, who had learned to look on assassination as a remedy for political errors, and mistook murder for patriotism. The pistol fired at Alexander II. broke up the cold

indifference of the Parisian people, and roused them to a perception that it lay with them to mitigate the calamity of such an act having been perpetrated in their capital by showing that neither they nor the Poles who had found a refuge in their city had any feeling but abhorrence for the attempt and gratitude that it was frustrated. The consequence is that, whenever the Emperor of Russia has since made his appearance, he was received with considerably more warmth, and the expressions of congratulation were given heartily and sincerely, so that a better understanding prevailed than that which greeted his arrival at the railway station on the 1st of the month, as represented in our Engraving. The Emperor of the French, on his way to meet the illustrious guest, must have been conscious of a dead silence in the great concourse of people, and knew very well that that silence was not intended for him. All the way to the railway station this peculiarity was obvious, and the few groups which had been placed to serve as claqueurs by the police could not, by their exertions, make the reception other than foreboding, especially as the newspapers had all spoken freely of the feelings which the sight of Alexander and Gortschakoff would awaken. The Emperor arrived

at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the Great Northern Railway, having been met at Jeumont by a number of officers of the household, all of whom were to be attached to his service during his stay in Paris; while other distinguished officers were appointed to attend the Princes. The Russian Ambassador also went to meet his Imperial master. The Emperor of the French, accompanied by the Ministers of State, including the great sovereign Prefect, M. Hausmann, awaited the arrival of the Imperial party at the railway station, in the interior of which several platforms had been erected for the convenience of well-dressed visitors, principally ladies.

On the arrival of the train the bands played the Russian Hymn, and Alexander II. alighted from the carriage, offering a two-handed greeting to his cousin of France, afterwards presenting his sons to the notice of the Emperor. They were dressed in full uniform, his Majesty wearing the grand cordon of the Legion of Honour, and being attended by Prince Gortschakoff, Prince Dolgorouki, Count Adlerberg, and Count Schouwaloff. After a few minutes conversation, the party entered the Imperial carriages, and proceeded, by way of the Boulevard



THE EMPRESS EUGENIE RECEIVING THE CZAR ON THE GRAND STAIRCASE OF THE TUILERIES.

Magenta and the Boulevard Strasbourg, to the Tuileries, which the cortège entered through the Arc de Triomphe. Here they were received at the foot of the grand staircase by the Empress of the French, accompanied by the Grand Duchess Marie of Russia, Princess Mathilde, and the ladies of the Imperial household. The party then entered the Saloon of the First Consul, where the Czar presented, first to her Majesty and afterwards to the Emperor, the two Grand Dukes and the officers of his suite. The Imperial party was then conducted to the Elysée, where they took up their residence.

Of the two sons of the Emperor Alexander, the eldest is Nicholas Alexandrovitch, known as the Grand Duke Alexander, who has lately married Princess Dagmar of Denmark, formerly betrothed to his late brother the Grand Duke Nicholas, whose melancholy death so deeply affected the Imperial family. The second son, the Grand Duke Vladimir, is just twenty years of age, having been born in April, 1847. He is Captain, Aide-de-Camp, and Commander of the new Russian Regiment of Dragoons and of the Infantry Regiment of Dorpat. The Grand Duke Alexander is Commander of the Regiment of Cossacks of the Guard and of the Lancers of Smolensk. He was born in March, 1845.

The races at Longchamps, which took place on the Sunday after the arrival of the Imperial party, was the great occasion for the appearance of the Czar in public; and a large stand was erected for the accommodation of himself and his suite, who proceeded to the race-ground after having attended service in the Russian church in the morning.

FALL OF TWO HOUSES IN CLEMENT'S LANE.

MUCH excitement was caused in the neighbourhood of Fleet-street and the Strand, on the 5th inst., by a report that two houses had fallen down in Clement's-lane, and that the accident was attended with serious injuries, if not actual loss of life. The latter part of the report was without foundation, although a policeman who was passing at the time had a narrow escape. The scene of the accident is near the Carey-street end of the lane, and the houses in question were chiefly occupied by lodgers of the humbler class, and formed a portion of those tottering rookeries which are a disgrace to the metropolis in a sanitary as well as in an architectural point of view. The wind being very high in the early part of the day was most probably the immediate cause of the disaster; but, from the



FALL OF TWO HOUSES IN CLEMENT'S-LANE, STRAND.

dilapidated state of the houses, such an event was rendered very likely, and it is not improbable that a similar fate awaits other crazy tenements in the same quarter which form no portion of the site of the new courts of law.

"OLD WOMEN OF THE PLACE NAVONE."

M. TONY ROBERT-FLEURY has contributed to the French Fine-Art Exhibition a picture for which he has received a medal, and, as it is one of the most admired performances in

named after the retiring Viceroy, and to be endowed in perpetuity, for the education of youths of all classes, colours, and creeds. Thanks to the untiring zeal and energy of the mover of this wise resolution, and the powerful support he received from the Maharajah Maun Sing, one of the wealthiest and most influential of the talookdars, the Canning College was opened in less than two years; and at the end of 1864 it contained 336 students, while in March last their number was increased to 542. There are seventy-one free students, the remainder paying, according to their means, from 1s. to £1 per month and the

the gallery this year, we give it a place in our columns. "The Vieilles of the Place Navone at the Church of St. Maria della Pace" is such an example of art as is rarely found in the modern French school, and all its details are so excellent that we cannot be surprised at its recognition by the jury as one of the first pictures of the season. It is true that the artist seems too closely to follow the style of his father, whose colouring was somewhat triste and wanting in depth; but there will be little inclination on the part of those who are tired of the bright and garish reds, blues, and whites of some modern pictures, to quarrel with the cool and somewhat pallid tones, which are such a relief to the eye after a course of the regular Exhibition paintings.

THE CANNING COLLEGE, LUCKNOW.

THIS noble institution, the existence of which deserves to be generally known in this country, was founded by the talookdars, or great landowners of Oude, in honour of the late Lord Canning, and was opened for students on May 1, 1864, since which time it has largely prospered. From the second annual report of the college, of which a copy has just been received from India, we learn that when Lord Canning, in the spring of 1862, was about to lay down his high office as Viceroy, the landowners of Oude, in public meeting assembled at Lucknow, resolved to testify their gratitude to their great benefactor by the erection of some permanent memorial to commemorate his name and the beneficent services which his Lordship had rendered to their country. It was accordingly decided, on the motion of one of the most distinguished of the talookdars, Dukhinarunjun Mookerjee Bahadur, a Brahmin belonging to the well-known Tajore family—a man whose life has been spent in promoting the moral welfare and intellectual advancement of his countrymen—that the most fitting memorial would be the establishment of a college, to be



OLD MARKET-WOMEN OF NAVONE ATTENDING PRAYERS IN THE CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DELLA PACE.—(FROM THE PAINTING BY TONY ROBERT-FLEURY, IN THE PARIS FINE-ART EXHIBITION.)

average daily attendance during the past year was 87 per cent. The usefulness of the college is not confined to Lucknow alone, for it attracts the most promising students from the five high schools established in the principal towns of Oude; and many of these young natives, whose fathers not long ago cultivated their fields with tulwars by their sides and shields slung across their backs, will now be enabled to prosecute their studies free of expense at the Canning College, with the view of passing the arts examination at the Calcutta University and obtaining the B.A. degree. A public meeting for the distribution of prizes to the successful young students was held on the 9th of March last in the palace of the Kaiser Bagh, probably in one of the rooms out of which, not ten years ago, the mutinous sepoys and rebels were driven at the point of the bayonet by our soldiers, under the command of Lord Clyde. The chief commissioner, Mr. Strachey, presided on the occasion, and in his introductory remarks mentioned two facts which are well worthy of being repeated. In the first place, he said, the Canning College during the past year, as regarded the number of students who had passed the Calcutta University examination, had been excelled by only one college in the North-Western Provinces, or the Punjab—that of Benares, an institution that had been in existence seventy-five years. And, secondly, the landowners of Oude had subscribed during the past year between £6000 and £7000 towards the encouragement of education—"a sum more than half as much again as the whole of the private subscriptions of the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab put together—provinces with four times the population and six or seven times the area of Oude." It is worthy of remark that Oude is the only part of India in which the least attempt has as yet been made to invite the co-operation of the natives of the higher classes in the arduous task of the government of their own country, and the facts above noticed will suffice to show what great things might be accomplished if the zeal, energy, and ability of the native gentry and aristocracy were more generally employed in administering the affairs of our Indian empire.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE second performance of "Don Carlos" took place on Saturday last, when, in consequence of Mdlle. Lucca's illness, the part of Elizabeth was taken by Mdlle. Lemmens-Sherrington. The third representation was fixed for Friday. In the mean time Mdlle. Adelina Patti has appeared as Amina, in "La Sonnambula," one of the best of her very extensive repertory. "Faust and Marguerite," too, has been repeated with Mdlle. Pauline Lucca in the character of the heroine.

It is many years since any singer who has appeared at Her Majesty's Theatre has obtained anything like the success that attended the first appearance of Mdlle. Christine Nilsson, on Saturday evening, as Violetta, in "La Traviata." A contemporary, after apologising beforehand for doing so, calls attention to Mdlle. Nilsson's personal appearance in the following terms:—"We will merely state, then, that Mdlle. Nilsson is very fair; that her fairness is relieved by dark eyes, large, rather deeply sunk, and capable of very earnest expression; that she is tall, rather slight in figure; and that, owing to the remarkable beauty and delicacy of her nose (!), she is at least as attractive seen in profile as in full face." It was not astonishing, then, that the new Violetta had already enlisted the sympathy of the audience before she had sung a note. Mdlle. Christine Nilsson is, indeed, one of the most charming vocalists of modern times. Whether she is a great actress or not, cannot yet be decided. She does not, could not, enter into the spirit of such a part as that of Violetta, and contents herself with exhibiting the ladylike side of the character alone. Whether Mdlle. Nilsson poetises the character of Violetta by the force of art, or whether, appearing in this character, she lends it a certain poetry which belongs to herself, and which can never desert her, we need not inquire. The result is very charming; but the manifestation of her natural qualities will be more charming still in such an appropriate part as that of Marguerite, in which she is announced to appear this evening. Mdlle. Nilsson possesses qualities which one would think more calculated to gain the heart than to rouse the enthusiasm of our public. The audience, however, but for Mdlle. Nilsson's supplications to be excused, would have redemanded each of her solos, as they compelled her to repeat her verse in the drinking song of the first act. As to the general effect of her performance, it was such that at the close of the opera there was a unanimous call for the heroine, which was repeated again and again, until Mdlle. Nilsson had appeared no less than three times before the curtain. The characters of Alfredo and of Germont were represented on the occasion of Mdlle. Nilsson's debut by Signor Mongini and Mr. Santley.

It is not often that we have anything to say about music-halls. We may mention, however, that Miss Fitz-Henry, as Azucena, in "Il Trovatore," given in costume and with scenery, was the great musical attraction offered by Mr. C. Morton to the patrons of Canterbury Hall during the Whitsun holidays. The immense success achieved by this lady when the selection was first produced, about a fortnight ago, marked an epoch in music-hall performances, nothing so thoroughly good in every respect as Miss Fitz-Henry's delineation of the gipsy-mother having been previously witnessed, except upon the stage of a first-class opera house. The run of "Il Trovatore" was interrupted last week by Miss Fitz-Henry's indisposition; but, now that it is to be continued, we have much pleasure in calling attention to what may really be regarded as an important artistic event, showing, as it does, a genuine triumph achieved under hazardous circumstances, and an amount of appreciation that speaks volumes for the improved taste of the million. The parts of Leonora and Manrico are ably sustained by Miss Russell and M. Bury. But they have comparatively little to do; for Azucena's great scene in the second act (including "Stride la vampa," the trying descriptive scene, and the great duet with Manrico) occupies the greater part of the selection.

The great choral concert of 5000 voices, held at the Crystal Palace on May Day, will be repeated there on Thursday next—conductor, Mr. G. W. Martin; and in addition to the concert there will be several other attractions.

LOVING NOT WISELY.—On Monday, at Huddersfield, a young man, named Robert Messenger, of Lepton, was charged with annoying Miss Laura Baylis, aged seventeen, daughter of Mr. John Baylis, railway contractor; and she, being afraid of her life, prayed that he might be ordered to find sureties. From what has transpired it appeared that Messenger had fallen in love with Miss Baylis, and had for some time past followed her about or waylaid her and accosted her in the streets at Huddersfield or the outskirts of the town. Miss Baylis had tried to cause him to cease his annoyance by threatening to give him into custody; but this had no effect upon him, and the matter having been mentioned to her father, an arrangement was made whereby the coachman met Messenger unexpectedly and administered a beating to him. Still he continued his pursuit of Miss Baylis, and at last he was given into custody, and was, on Monday, bound over to keep the peace for three months, himself in £100 and two sureties of £50 each.

THE TAILORS' STRIKE.—It is now nine weeks since this movement commenced, and there seems at present not the slightest probability that the contest between masters and men will be amicably settled before a further considerable time has elapsed. It appears that some of the masters represented to the executive of the operatives' society that they would agree to the terms of the proposed amalgamated log as far as it regarded "coat hands," if the men who are usually employed on vests and trousers would return to work at the rate of pay which they were receiving previous to the strike. After a consultation with the men the executive found themselves compelled to reject the proposal. Last week an account was received from Brighton stating that a considerable quantity of London work was being made up in that town. Mr. Drutt, the president of the operatives' society, left town at once to investigate the truth of the rumour. Finding it to be well founded, he visited the workshops and so influenced the men that upwards of 200 of them struck work on the evening of the day of his visit. The committee of the London masters have been sitting almost daily for the last week preparing a new time-log, which the masters generally throughout the country, at a meeting held at the Langham Hotel, have pledged themselves to accept. A printed copy of this new log has come into the possession of the central committee of the operatives, and has been at once declared by them to be such as no operative, either in town or country, could accept. They, however, express their willingness to take this new log of the masters and their own amalgamated time-log as the basis of a negotiation for the settlement of the dispute, if the masters will meet them in good faith, and agree to refer all disputed points to arbitration.

WATER SUPPLY OF EAST LONDON.

THE river Lea, upon which, with its tributaries, half London depends for its supply of water, springs up in the south of Bedfordshire, to run thence to the Thames at Blackwall. No sooner has it got over three miles of its course than the town of Luton, with 20,000 inhabitants, sends into the stream a mass of sewage and manufacturing refuse including tons of oxalic acid, the poisonous character of which will fortunately be destroyed by the carbonate and sulphate of lime in the water. At this season of the year the sheep-washing also makes much of the water unwholesome for fish to live in, owing to the taint of the arsenic of the preparation in which they are dipped. As the stream passes on, the sewage of towns and villages runs or soaks into it, in one instance, at least, clarified by lime, but remaining sewage still. Before the influx of the sewage of Hertford the New River Company has its intake of water; the East London Company have their intake lower down, at Ponder's-end. The water is conveyed in an open conduit from Ponder's-end to the filter-beds at Lea Bridge, and thence, in a cast-iron conduit, to the covered reservoirs at Old Ford. Below Ponder's-end the river becomes fouler, and at length like an open common sewer. In consequence of a complaint formally made after the outbreak of cholera last summer in the east of London, Captain Tyler has been engaged, under the instructions of the Board of Trade, in inquiring into the quantity and quality of the water supplied by the East London Company, and on the 27th of last month he made his report. He has to state at the outset that there is no doubt that the River Lea is much contaminated by sewage before it reaches the company's works at Lea Bridge. At Old Ford there are two covered reservoirs, containing together about 6,000,000 gallons; they have not been cleansed since 1855. To ascertain whether the water of the Lea, which has here become very foul, soaked into these reservoirs, Captain Tyler had them nearly emptied, and devoted three hours of a Sunday afternoon in February (the only day when they could be allowed to be empty) to wading about in them, and examining them. He perceived springs issuing below the level of the water. He also observed spurts from the brickwork; but the water most contaminated with organic and other volatile matters was the water remaining at the bottom of the reservoirs. It appeared to him that there must be some soakage through the bottom of the reservoir, and that the water of the Lea (here so impure) does to a certain extent find its way into them, more or less naturally filtered as it soaks through. He reports it desirable that the company should increase their filtering area as quickly as possible, in order to become less dependent on these reservoirs; and he considers that the evil might be reduced to very narrow limits by keeping the reservoirs as nearly as possible full, and drawing upon them to a moderate extent only. The company have now proposed to Parliament to fill up and abandon the easternmost reservoir, and to fill the other to a height of 4 ft., and render it perfectly watertight. It will be remembered that last summer, once in June and once in July, water had to be drawn by this company from two old open reservoirs at Old Ford, in which the mass of the water was unfiltered. The communication has since been permanently stopped up, and it is not possible to resort to this source in aid of the supply. Captain Tyler discusses at much length whether this was the cause of the fearful mortality from cholera in the east of London. He considers that the Lea would be contaminated at Old Ford at an early period of the epidemic, and that the covered reservoirs may, when partially emptied, have received some of the poison from the river at different times, and the water supply of some of the districts drawn from those reservoirs may thus have been, to some extent, infected. He regards it, therefore, as a case of grave suspicion. At the same time, he says, any poison so distributed would have been in a condition, if it were soluble in water, of considerable dilution; and he is not prepared on that account, as well as in consideration of the deplorable state in other respects of their district, to go so far as the memorialists in asserting that this water was "the principal, if not the sole cause of the fearful mortality from cholera." He believes, however, that if, as is possible, choleraic poison did find its way into the company's mains, it must have passed directly from the river Lea into the closed reservoirs; and he has no reason to believe that it was distributed in the water which was so improperly supplied to the district from the open reservoir. Here he quits this subject, leaving a grave responsibility upon the company, who must do the utmost in their power to meet that responsibility.

Passing, then, to complaints of deficient quantity of water supply, Captain Tyler comes to a subject of the highest interest. He learns that at Butler's-buildings 250 people lived in fourteen houses, and in Gibraltar-gardens 150 people in twenty houses; and the evidence of these people, confirmed by that of the officers of the water company, and by a visit to the localities, disclosed a state of affairs which was lamentable in the extreme.

Each of these sets of houses was supplied by one 3-in. pipe only, and the regulated time for turning on the water daily was, at Butler's-buildings, 25 minutes—from 7.10 to 7.35 a.m.; and at Gibraltar-gardens, 20 minutes—from 4.35 to 4.55 p.m. There would thus have been delivered 200 gallons daily at Butler's-buildings, among 250 people, or less than a gallon each, and on Sunday none at all. But the company were paid by the landlord at the rate of about 10s. a house per annum—the same amount as if there had been a pipe of the same size for each house. And these 250 people in fourteen houses had to divide among them, as best they could, the supply that ought to have been received in each house, the landlord preferring to pay the water company for water which his wretched tenants did not receive rather than go to the expense of fittings to enable them to receive the supply for which he was obliged to pay. Similarly, about 132 people in houses Nos. 1 to 22, Gibraltar-gardens, supplied by one 3-in. pipe for twenty-five minutes per day, would get about 300 gallons between them on week-days. This quantity would not flow out of the pipe in the twenty-five minutes, but some fifty gallons extra would dribble out of the pipe after the water was turned off in the main, because there was no other pipe on that service. In this case, the proper supply for about a house and a half was divided among twenty-two houses. But a deficient quantity of water was not the worst evil these poor people had to contend with. There was the further difficulty of keeping in a wholesome condition the little they were able to catch. Many of the people had no proper receptacle for it: it had to be caught in pails or other vessels, and taken into their rooms. These evils had been going on for years. It was found that these houses could easily be put on the constant supply at a first outlay of 10s. per house, and less than 1s. a year per house for maintenance of the requisite fittings. After the exposure of these cases the landlords had the work done, and the people are now receiving as much water as they choose to draw at any time of the day, without any increase to the water rates paid by the landlord; but it is stated that in Butler's-buildings the rents have been raised. The fear of this result makes tenants unwilling to complain, and no one can say how many cases of this kind may exist in the east of London. Captain Tyler casts blame not only upon the landlords, but in some instances upon the water company, and in all upon the parish authorities, the latter having power to remedy the evil under the Metropolitan Water Supply Act. At No. 85, Hare-street, thirty-four people had one butt belonging to the landlord, in which one of the slaves was split, so that it would only hold 15 in., or twenty gallons, instead of forty to forty-eight gallons of water; one leaky barrel, which would only hold eighteen instead of thirty-six gallons; and two smaller sound casks, which would hold, the one eighteen, the other twenty-five gallons. This double house belonged to a member of the Metropolitan Board of Works. There was only one 3-inch pipe shared between it and No. 86, and yet the tenants were in want of storage more than of water. The split butt at No. 85 was the only one they could drink from. We learn, in short, that the same defects are apparent on inspection at every turn in the poorer districts. Pipes bent and broken; taps leaking, stuck fast, or missing; receptacles of every description, butter firkins, tar-barrels, wine-butts or cisterns, in all conditions of filthiness, leakiness, rottenness, or ill-repair; covers inefficient, or absent even where they have been supplied. The water runs sometimes over the side in place of

into the butt, and too frequently runs to waste as long as it is turned on. In other cases, where there is a plurality of houses on one pipe—and there are in the East London district 500 cases in which four or more houses depend upon one service-pipe—the supply intended for each is unequally divided, according to the energies and opportunities of their inhabitants, among the whole. The purest water that can be delivered is hopelessly contaminated directly it leaves the service-pipes by the dirty condition of the receptacles. The water rates have increased, as between 1863 and 1866, from £109,000 to £129,300, or rather more than twice as fast as the supply. But the year 1866 was exceptional. During the prevalence of cholera the company acted liberally in giving twenty per cent extra of supply to their district. They increased their weekly quantity from

134,000,000 in June to 151,000,000 in August.	
133,000,000 "	156,000,000 "
136,000,000 "	163,000,000 "
131,000,000 "	161,000,000 "
139,000,000 "	156,000,000 "

In 1861, on the other hand, the greatest drought occurred that they have experienced. They had not more than 20,000,000 gallons to draw from in the river daily for two months. Taking all they could get, and supplementing that quantity from storage, they were obliged to diminish their supply by about 200,000,000 gallons, or more than ten days' consumption, principally in one month. To effect this they shut off constant supplies during the night and reduced the pressure over the district. Looking to the continued increase in the district and in the demand, and to the possible contingency of another dry season, they are naturally apprehensive for the future. They are accordingly applying to Parliament for powers to enable them to supplement their supply to the extent of 10,000,000 gallons daily from the Thames. The company have, with great advantage, organised an office and a staff for enforcing improvements; and very great improvement has resulted. But the warfare is continual. On the last complete examination, in 1866, more than 30 per cent of the houses in Whitechapel, for instance, were out of order. In the eastern parts of London one fourth was the average. In Bethnal-green a fifth of the houses are not on constant supply, and have either no means of storage or no better means than an 18-gallon tub. Captain Tyler is of opinion that the company ought to give, and indeed are bound to give, a Sunday supply, or at least an equivalent for it on the Saturday evening, in cases in which it is so urgently required. But a constant supply is the real remedy. Captain Tyler discusses this subject with reference to waste and cost, and shows that by the use of small ferules and small accumulating cisterns, in combination with taps for drinking purposes on the service-pipes, the interests of the water companies and the public can be alike secured. The most satisfactory, if not the only, mode by which the inestimable benefit of constant supply could now be afforded to the metropolis would be, in his opinion, by making it incumbent upon the water companies to prepare for it within a reasonable period, by giving them power to put all necessary fittings into the houses for the purpose, and by permitting them to levy a fair extra rate for the cost and maintenance of such fittings as are required. The owners or occupiers might choose from a schedule of prices the class of fittings for which they desire to be rated; and they would be served better and more cheaply in this manner than they are at present, when each man has to employ his own plumber. It would be to the direct interest of the company to erect and maintain good fittings, so as to avoid waste. And constant service, with convenient arrangements and a minimum of waste, would be to the advantage of all parties. Second only to improved dwellings, a legislative enactment carrying out such provisions would be the greatest blessing that could be bestowed upon the working classes and the poor of London.

THE REPRESENTATION OF SCOTLAND.

A MEETING of the Chamber of Commerce of Edinburgh was held, on Monday, to consider the claims of Scotland in connection with the redistribution of seats. Mr. Harrison, chairman, presided. The secretary read a communication from the city clerk containing a copy of resolutions adopted by the Town Council relative to sending a deputation to London to press the claims of Edinburgh on the Government in connection with the redistribution of seats scheme of the Scottish Reform Bill, and asking the Chamber to appoint a small deputation to co-operate. He also read the copy of a telegram which the city clerk had received, to the effect that the Earl of Derby and Mr. Disraeli had declined to receive the council deputation. The chairman said he was much surprised at the decision of the right hon. gentleman, and he trusted that the Lord Advocate would bring such facts to bear on the matter as would enable them to arrive at a different conclusion. He thought they should urge the case, not of particular places, but of Scotland in general. In every point of view Scotland was entitled to a larger share in the redistribution of seats than had been offered to her on either side of the House. He moved a resolution to the effect that Scotland is entitled to a largely-increased representation, and that a third member ought to be allocated for Edinburgh, as proposed in the Reform Bill of 1854. Mr. McLaren, M.P., said this was really a case of "justice to Scotland," and he approved rather treating the matter on this broad basis than giving undue prominence to local claims. He believed that, if the Scotch members would as a body go forward and state their claims fairly, they would receive justice at the hands of Government. But on this question the Scotch members had more need of enlightenment than Government itself; and, unless they got these gentlemen to come forward and ask what was right, they could hardly blame Government for not giving them what they expected. He believed Her Majesty's Ministers had refused about sixty deputations from Scotland wishing to press special claims, but Mr. Disraeli had politely assured him that he would pay every attention to any memorial that might reach him on the subject. But they could hardly expect that when in a previous bill the proposed addition to the Scotch members was only seven the Conservative party would volunteer to give more. No Government cared about giving more than they were obliged to do, and especially when it would cramp their own toes. The Conservative party saw that the large proportion of the Scotch members were Liberals, and they believed that every addition to the Scotch constituency was just adding a Liberal member to the House; and when they considered that Mr. Disraeli found considerable jealousy exhibited by certain English members of the House, the Scotch constituencies could hardly blame him for not bringing forward a measure such as they expected, more especially when they had taken so little trouble to make known their views. In answer to a question, Mr. McLaren said he thought the English bill, were it to receive such modifications by Government as certain parties hinted, would pass this Session, but he did not think the Scotch bill would. The one hinged on the other; and if the English bill passed and left only seven seats vacant in the House, they could count on these seven being the only addition they would receive to their present representation, as he found there was a strong feeling in the House against any increase of their members. The chairman's motion was carried, and a committee was appointed to co-operate with other public bodies on the subject of the representation of Scotland.

CONVOCATION.—On Saturday last Convocation concluded its recent session by some formal proceedings. Amongst the latest acts of this venerable body was a resolution in favour of restoring to its ancient place in the ceremonies at the opening of every new Convocation the celebration of holy communion. The duty of prescribing the formularies on that occasion devolve upon his Grace the President. The Lower House has adopted the scheme for the better representation of the parochial clergy agreed to by the last Convocation, and his Grace has undertaken to bring this clerical reform bill under the notice of Government. Some important suggested alterations as to the publication of banns of marriage have been approved; and a committee has been appointed to consider the question of "assistant bishops."

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.—The arrangements for the forthcoming show of this society at Bury St. Edmunds next month are so far completed that, notwithstanding the wise decision of the Privy Council not to allow cattle to be exhibited, the long line of canvas shedding to which the visitors to these shows have been accustomed will not be curtailed, nor will the large area inclosed be at all diminished. The interval since the last show at Plymouth, in 1865, appears to have been well employed by the exhibitors of implements in increased endeavours to wring from the stubborn soil and the parched ear every root and grain that will be so extensive that half the yard originally destined for cattle has been added to the ordinary dimensions of the implement-yard. The show of horses will be very large, and the attractions of this department will be enhanced by the jumping of those in the hunter classes each day of the show. The amateur of sheep or pigs will find the usual extensive choice open to him, while the poultry will be in excess of any former year. To all these inducements to visitors must be added the Royal Horticultural Society's exhibition and the various objects of local interest to be found in the town itself, which will put on her gayest colours to welcome the societies.

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 PETER ROBINSON'S, of Regent-street.
 The most economical and the largest in Europe.

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 Good useful Black Silks, from 4s. to 7s. the Full Dress.
 Superior and most enduring qualities, from 2s. 6d. to 10s. 6d.
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 Stripes, Chénés, Checks, Gros Grains, Plain Glacés,
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 Light and Black Grounds, Coloured Sprigs,
 13s. 6d., 15s. 6d., 21s. for 14 yards.
 A desirable and most useful dress.

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 This useful Fabric, in various patterns, cut by the yard for
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 LONGCLOTHS, Sheetings, Prints, and all Cotton Goods are
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 Beautifully Coloured Striped Silks, at 2s. 11d.; worth 3s. 6d.
 Striped and Checked Silks in great variety.

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 Catalogue, with Illustrated Almanack, forwarded free.
 Close on Saturdays at Four o'clock.
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FOR THREE WEEKS ONLY,
 BAKER and CRISP beg to call special attention to the
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 500 Pieces Striped Poplins 2s. 11d. Full Dress.
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Also all the New Colours and Stripes in Japanese Silks; and an
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 A large Quantity Fancy Silks, 1 guinea
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 Bankrupt's Stock. Dark Silks,
 £1 15s. 6d.
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 Bankrupt's Stock. Plain Silks,
 Every Shade,
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 Bankrupt's Stock. Morning Silks,
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 Lot 4. 1600 Japanese Silks. Patterns free.
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 Thousands Muslins, 2s. 11d. Full Dress.
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 Peplum Lace Mantles, Black or White,
 25s. 6d. each.
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 BAKER and CRISP have just received a magnificent variety of
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 Price £1 19s. 6d.
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 10s. 6d. doz.
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 Chas. Amott and Co., St. Paul's,
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 £500 worth of Good Black Silks,
 14 guineas 15 yards.
 Black French Glacé Silks,
 wide width, 1s. 11d. per yard.
 Gros Grains, Gros de Lyon, Gros de Londres,
 2s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.
 Patterns of a £20,000 Stock post-free.
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MOURNING DRESSES, HALF PRICE.
 Genuine Norwich Tamaros,
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 500 Pieces of Black Grenadines,
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 Crape, Paramettes, Twills, Crape Cloth, &c.,
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 CHAS. AMOTT and CO., St. Paul's, will SELL, during the
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 500 " " " " 1s. 11d., worth 1 guinea.
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 The 30s. set in full size, very strong and useful. No better can be
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 Catalogues of Cutlery, Electro-plated, Lamps, Baths, Stoves,
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 Deane and Co., 40, King William-street, London Bridge.

KORNER'S DINNER SERVICES. Stone
 China, from 23s.; with Crest and Monogram, 25s. Also,
 a large Assortment of Tea, Breakfast, Dessert, and Toilet Set.
 Fancy Goods in great variety. Parties furnishing will find a great
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SLACKS' SILVER ELECTRO-PLATE
 is as good for wear as real silver.
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PRICE'S SOLIDIFIED GLYCERINE
 (Patented).
 The newest and best toilet soap, wears well, gives a rich and
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NEW NOISELESS LOCK-STITCH
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 EXHIBITION, 1865.—This celebrated old Irish Whisky gained
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 are indispensable to personal attraction, and to health
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 ROWLANDS' ODONTO, OR PEARL DENTIFRICK,
 preserves and imparts a pearl-like whiteness to the teeth, eradicates
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